

Israel, allies shell Lebanese villages

RASHAYA (R) — Israeli and allied militia gunners shelled a string of villages in South Lebanon on Saturday after the third guerrilla rocket attack in 48 hours, security sources said. They said five Soviet-made rockets hit the town of Marjayoun, 12 kilometres north of Israel, at midnight. Artillery batteries in the Jewish state's self-declared "security zone" pounded several villages in the southern part of the Bekaa Valley. There were no reports of casualties in the exchanges and the rocket attacks have caused only light damage. It was not known which group carried out the Katyusha attacks. Five rockets hit Marjayoun, where the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army (SLA) maintains its headquarters, on Friday and four were fired on Thursday. The pro-Iranian Hizbollah (Party of God) has stepped up its hit-and-run guerrilla attacks on Israeli and SLA forces inside the "security zone."

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية تعنى بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية، الراي

Volume 16 Number 4875

AMMAN SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8, 1991, JUMADEH AL AKHERA 2, 1412

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams

King voices optimism over Jordan-Gulf ties

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein said in a newspaper interview that Saudi-Jordanian relations marred by the Gulf crisis are beginning to improve but Jordan is also seeking improvement of relations with the rest of the Gulf states because the Kingdom sees the strain in relations as temporary.

Oman is playing a mediation role to bring about improved relations between Jordan and the Gulf countries as the Sultanate has continued to maintain strong relations with Jordan, expressing understanding of the Jordanian position during the Gulf crisis, King Hussein said in an interview with the Qatari newspaper Al Arab published Saturday.

"For me personally and for the Arab Nation what happened in

the Gulf region was a real catastrophe which Jordan had tried to avoid with all its power," the King said.

In reply to a question about the role of the Jordanian press which allegedly contributed to the deterioration of relations, the King said that the press in Jordan is free to write and express views.

"However, once the leaders and people of the Gulf countries study Jordan's position, which opposed any form of military action," they would appreciate Jordan's stand," he said.

"Although Jordan exerted all efforts to avoid the catastrophe by advocating a settlement within the Arab framework, developments took a completely opposite direction," he said.

King Hussein said he never

thought that the Gulf states would adopt a hostile stand towards Jordan since "they had realised all along that Jordan spared no effort or practical action to support them in the face of any internal or external danger."

The King said he had no formal contact with the Iraqi leadership since the start of the Gulf problem, except the known visits during which he tried to defuse the situation.

He said he received Iraqi officials coming to Jordan and Jordan has been sympathising with the Iraqi people who are suffering as a result of the war.

King Hussein reemphasised Jordan's position of opposing any military action taken by the Iraqi leadership. "Since the very beginning Jordan was against Iraq's



occupation of Kuwait and was surprised to see it happen," he added.

He stressed that Jordan was not a party to the conflict or the border dispute between Iraq and Kuwait and any allegation to the

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Arab-Israeli talks to continue in Washington Tuesday

Negotiations will tackle substance as well as procedure
• Arab side expects U.S. capital to serve as venue for some time

From Jordan Times Staff Reporters in Washington

AFTER SEVERAL days of heated wrangling over the continuation of Arab-Israeli bilateral talks in Washington, both sides have finally agreed to sit around the negotiating table Tuesday to discuss both procedural and substantive issues which could move the peace process forward.

In statements to the press following a meeting they held Saturday morning (Washington time), the heads of the Arab delegations announced that they were preparing for "substantive" bilateral talks with Israel on Tuesday and indicated that they would reject an Israeli request to move to another venue until progress is achieved.

The announcement coincided with statements by Israeli officials that they too would be attending the Tuesday talks, and would be ready to

discuss some issues of substance. According to informed sources, the Israelis would be willing to discuss substance with the Arabs, except for issues related to land, water, and the source of authority for Palestinian autonomy. "The Israelis want to talk only about subjects covered by the autonomy talks with Egypt," one of the sources said.

"The Israeli delegation will have no mandate or authority to negotiate over the three other issues related to water, land and transferring authority to non-Israelis."

"The talks will take place on Tuesday," said Dr. Abdul Sahab Majali, head of the Jordanian team. "There is an understanding and they all know we will be attending on Tuesday," he told reporters.

The breakthrough over the date, announced after the Arab heads of delegation met at the Willard Hotel, the headquarters for the Jordanian team, was achieved through strong, albeit largely unpublished, American mediation efforts, which capitalised on the self-fulfilling desire by either side to resume the talks.

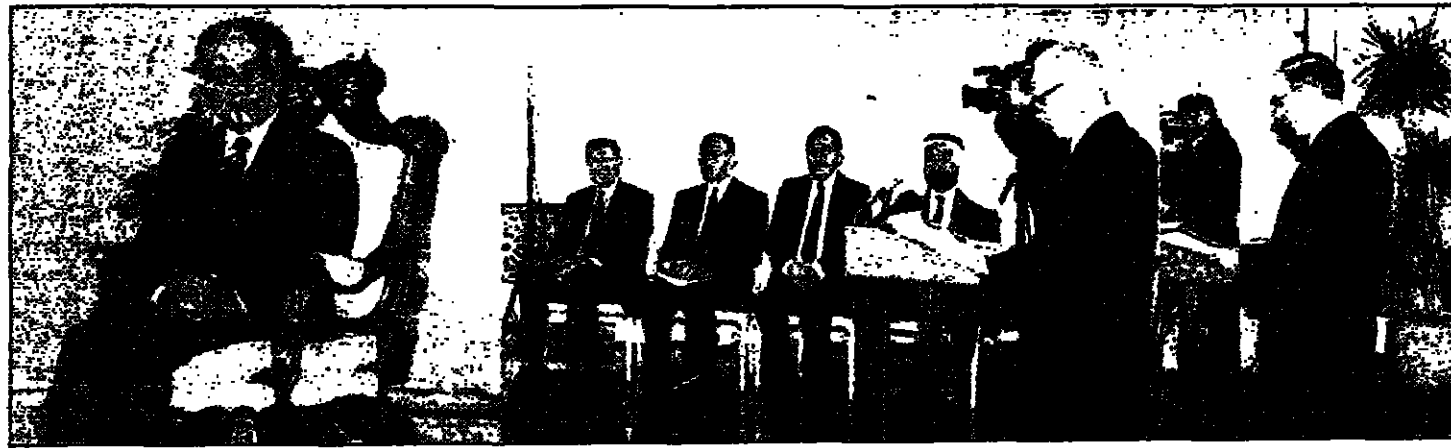
The Americans have not made any new proposals or invitations for next week's negotiations, as they have insisted all along that they will not, but they have been able to convince both sides of the necessity to resume talks, each side for its own advantages and reasons. Assistant Secretary of State for Near East Affairs, Edward Djerejian who spearheaded U.S. efforts to bring the two sides together, was able to convince the Arabs that it is not in their best interest to put too much pressure on the Israelis at this stage, simply over whether the date should be

Monday or Tuesday, and thus risk keeping the Israelis away from the negotiating table.

On the other hand, the Israelis were persuaded not to insist on Monday (Dec. 9) as the date on which talks should be continued, since the exercise would be self-defeating in that it was they who had accused the Arabs of playing the "empty-chair game." The Israelis had heavily criticised the Arabs for going to the State Department on Wednesday (Dec. 4), when the Arab delegations knew that their Israeli counterparts would not show up, contending that the Arab delegations did that for "propaganda" purposes.

In his statements to the press Saturday, Dr. Majali indicated that the U.S. State Department was "verbally" informed of the Arab position,

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Upper House Speaker Ahmad Lawzi and Lower House Speaker Abdul Latif Arabiyat Saturday present their replies to speech from the throne by His Majesty King Hussein last week (photos by Youssef Al 'Allan)

Parliament urges King to continue peace efforts, pledges to work with government

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament Saturday presented their replies to His Majesty King Hussein's speech from the throne opening the regular session of Parliament last week. Both the Upper House (Senate) and the Lower House welcomed the King's statement, which is considered the policy statement of the government of Shari' Zaid Ben Shakir, emphasised Jordan's role in the Middle East peace process and called on the King to continue close coordination with the Palestinians towards achieving a just and durable peace in the region.

The Senate reply to the King was presented by Speaker Ahmad Lawzi at an audience attended by senators

while the House response was read out by Speaker Abdul Latif Arabiyat, accompanied by deputies.

In broad terms, both replies welcomed the various policy objectives and programmes outlined in the King's speech from the throne and pledged to work closely with the government (see expanded story on page 3).

The comments by the 80-man House echoed King Hussein's pledges on Sunday to support the Palestinians "under the leadership of their sole legitimate representative, the Palestine Liberation Organisation."

The lawmakers urged the government to improve relations with Arab

states, strained during the Gulf crisis.

The House, which is usually critical of U.S. policies, lamented a U.S.-led new world order "where there is only space for puppets who implement instructions without arguments."

"We highly value Your Majesty's efforts to convince the world to recognise the rights of the Palestinians, including those of self-determination and an independent state on their national soil with Jerusalem as its capital," the reply said.

"We hope that Jordan will carry on the responsibility of supporting the Palestinians and their struggle to achieve their aspired goals through all the means and ways," said the letter,

which was drafted by a 12-man committee that included five senior Muslim Brotherhood leaders.

While this phrase was seen as an implicit endorsement by the House of the ongoing Middle East peace process, the legislature said: "We should always be committed to upholding our principles with no infringements whatsoever."

The House, where Muslim fundamentalists maintain influence, had issued a statement in September rejecting the American-led peace process saying Israel wants to only normalise relations with Arab states without resolving the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestinian problem.

Violence in occupied lands

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Israeli border police fired rubber bullets at Palestinians in Arab East Jerusalem Saturday, injuring a demonstrator and a technician of the international television news agency Visnews.

Sound technician Danny Goldberg, hit on the hand by a rubber bullet, said policemen were chasing several Palestinians who threw a bottle at their patrol.

Police shot into the air and then fired rubber bullets, Mr. Goldberg said. One of the Palestinians was hit in the face.

Mr. Goldberg was treated at Hadassah hospital in Jerusalem.

Other demonstrators threw stones at police and held up signs to mark the fourth anniversary on Monday of the Palestinian uprising in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, Palestinians said.

Israel Radio said Palestinians poured contact glue on the street near Jerusalem's Old City and set it on fire. Police closed the road to traf-

fic.

Palestinians also held demonstrations and processions to mark the anniversary of the founding of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

About 700 people marched in Gaza City, chanting slogans against the Middle East peace process. Palestinian sources said Israeli troops responded with tear-gas. Two women were injured and 15 people were arrested.

An army spokesman said he was checking the report.

A curfew in Ramallah, the West Bank home town of Palestinian spokeswoman Hanan Ashrawi, was lifted for several hours on Saturday.

About 60,000 people in the town and surrounding area have been under curfew since Sunday when unknown assailants ambushed and killed a Jewish settler.

Ramallah's military commander told Israel Television on Friday the clampdown would continue for three or four more days.

Shamir: Israel flexible on talks this week

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, who refused to send a delegation to last week's hastily called peace talks with the Arabs, now says the Jewish state is flexible over the date for resuming negotiations.

"I assume next week the negotiations will continue and if it is one day later or one day earlier this can't harm anything," Mr. Shamir told Israeli Radio in an interview broadcast Saturday.

Mr. Shamir's apparent softening was in marked contrast to his country's stance a few days ago when it refused to take part in talks with the Arabs in Washington last Wednesday, bridling at what it considered a U.S.-imposed date.

Israel had suggested the talks should resume Monday but Arab delegations rejected that, because it coincides with the fourth anniversary of the Palestinian uprising in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Mr. Shamir issued a sobering warning not to expect too much from the talks.

"I think the winds of euphoria which we felt following the end of the phase in Madrid could cause damage... our line is to work towards peace and to maintain the land of Israel," he said, maintaining his hard line on not trading land for peace.

On Friday, an unnamed Israeli official said in Washington that Israel would not try to score a media victory by playing the "empty chair" game Monday.

The Israeli official joined Arab delegates in saying that talks with Syria, Lebanon and a joint Palestinian-Jordanian delegation could start on Tuesday.

"We've heard unofficially they (the Arabs) don't want to do it Monday. We are not going to make an issue of that. If they want to start talking Tuesday, no

problem," the Israeli official said.

Palestinian spokeswoman Hanan Ashrawi, asked when the talks would start, said, "most probably Tuesday but we're still discussing things."

Talks between Israel and the Arabs opened in Madrid on Oct. 30. Attempts to resume dialogue have been delayed by the procedural bickering but disagreement over issues of substance are at the heart of the problem.

Israel wants to minimise outside involvement in the peace process. Israeli leaders said boycotting the talks on Dec. 4 sent a message to the Americans and Arabs that pressuring Israel would not work.

The Arabs, encouraged by U.S. support for a land-for-peace agreement, hope the Americans will pressure Israel to withdraw from the occupied territories in exchange for peace with the Arab states.

One member of the Palestinian delegation to peace talks said the U.S., in the words of the late Egyptian President Anwar Sadat, should be a "full partner" in the peace process.

The three Arab delegations went to conference rooms in the U.S. State Department last Wednesday to emphasise the Israeli boycott of peace talks.

One of the first issues to come up will be the site of the next round of talks. Mr. Shamir said Israel was still demanding the negotiations be held in the Middle East.

"We said to the Americans we were willing for one or two meetings and then it must shift to this region. I hope the Arabs will also understand that our position must be taken into consideration," Mr. Shamir said.

Moscow, however, is the most likely venue for multilateral talks between Israel and the Arabs at the end of January.

'Libya stopped supporting IRA over a year ago'

CAIRO (R) — Libya, under fire from Britain and the United States over its links to extremist groups, stopped supporting the Irish Republican Army (IRA) over a year ago, Tripoli's envoy to the Arab League said Saturday.

His remarks were the latest conciliatory statement in the row over Western charges that Libya was behind the 1988 bombing of a Pan Am jumbo jet over Scotland.

"We stopped supporting the IRA a long time ago. I announced it over a year ago," envoy Ali Tariqi told a news conference.

Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi said in an interview published on Friday Libya's support for extremist groups had been a

mistake and he was cutting links with the IRA, fighting to end British rule in Northern Ireland.

Libya Friday denied a report by a state-owned Egyptian newspaper that it had offered to hand over to an Arab country two of its nationals accused by the West of blowing up the Pan Am airliner.

"The report is not true," a spokesman for the Libyan mission in Cairo told Reuters. He denied that Mr. Tariqi, made such an offer to the 21-member body.

The Egyptian newspaper Akhbar Al Yom, in early Saturday editions, said: "Libya's Arab League envoy offered to hand over the two Libyans accused of

Babil accuses Talabani of lies, duplicity and Mossad links

BAGHDAD (R) — An Iraqi newspaper Saturday accused Kurdish leader Jalal Talabani of lies, duplicity and links with Israel.

"His friends described him as an opportunist who is ready to sell his father and mother for the sake of power," the daily Babil said in what it called the first article in a series exposing the Kurdish leader.

Babil said Mr. Talabani, who heads the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), had used guerrillas trained by Syria, had worked closely with Tehran during the Iran-Iraq war, and had secretly met Israeli Mossad agents.

The popular daily also accused Washington of supporting PUK saboteurs during the unrest in northern Iraq.

Babil has previously called Mr. Talabani unpatriotic and accused him of undermining government efforts to develop the Kurdish region.

The Iraqi government has been trying to reach an autonomy agreement with Mr. Talabani and

Massoud Barzani, co-leaders of the Kurdistan Front.

Mr. Talabani has criticised a draft autonomy deal negotiated by Mr. Barzani as insufficient.

The Iraqi News Agency said President Saddam Hussein held talks Saturday with Sami Abdul Rahman, secretary-general of the Kurdistan Popular Democratic Party, one of eight parties in the Kurdistan Front.

It said the meeting was attended by the vice-chairman of the Revolution Command Council, Izzat Ibrahim, who represents the government in the autonomy talks.

The United States Friday expressed concern at a renewed Kurdish refugee crisis in northern Iraq.

State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler said: "The United Nations people there on the ground tell us they believe they can handle this situation. It is something that is a concern to us, and something that

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Israeli absence at talks, U.S. 'shift' draw criticism in Jordan

By Serene Hakasa
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The absence of Israel at the negotiating table with the Arabs in Washington last week has drawn criticism and disdain from Jordanian analysts and political observers, who also cast doubts about the seriousness and commitment of the American administration in playing the role of an honest mediator.

Israel's boycott of the talks on Dec. 4 — the date set by the U.S. administration in what Washington now describes as a "proposal" rather than an "invitation" — and its insistence on Dec. 9 to pick up from where bilateral talks with Arabs were left off in Madrid last month was seen by most analysts and observers as an effort to undermine the American role in the peace process.

In the meantime, the Arab presence in Washington on the appointed date was seen as a

scoring point to the Arab side, especially that the Arab attendance and Israeli absence under the decades-old Israeli assertion that the Jewish state is ready to negotiate peace with Arabs anytime, any place.

However, the subsequent American reaction to the Israeli stand and what was obviously seen as Washington's efforts to placate the Jewish state have given rise to doubts on the seriousness of the Bush administration to see through the peace process it launched following the Gulf war earlier this year.

Dr. Husein Nusseibeh, the former Jordanian ambassador to the United Nations, described Israel's absence at the talks as an "audacious failure."

"Israel's behaviour is a statement on its position on the entire peace process," said Dr. Nusseibeh. "It is not simply a reaction on the date of the conference."

According to Mustafa Hamarneh, a professor of history at the University of Jordan, "Israel is sending a signal to the Americans that they will not put up with pressure."

"It is clear that the Israelis want Americans out of the talks as much as the Arabs want them in," Dr. Hamarneh said referring to Israel's argument that the U.S. cannot dictate terms in the peace process and that the Arabs had been misled by the U.S. into thinking that Washington would apply pressure on its long-time Middle East ally to a solution based on "land-for-peace."

On the other hand, Rami Khouri, a former editor-in-chief of the Jordan Times and a renowned columnist, believes that the Israeli position was "totally expected" and "relates to the long-term war between Israel and the United States."

Mr. Khouri finds little long-term political significance in

Israel's actions but only "an expression of political anguish."

"We are still in the showbusiness phase and we won't see any progress on substantive issues until February," Mr. Khouri asserted. "People on both sides are still trying to score points on procedural issues," he added.

Sari Nasir, a sociologist, characterised Israel's actions as a "manoeuvre and attempt to disrupt the (Middle East peace) conference," held in Madrid and set Arab-Israeli peace talks in motion.

"Israel is challenging (U.S.) President George Bush and trying to frighten him," Dr. Nasir said. "They are fighting a battle with the U.S. to see who dictates American policy in the Middle East."

There was also a general consensus among those interviewed by the Jordan Times this week that the Arab delegation in Washington had acted wisely and

patiently by not allowing themselves to be provoked by Israel.

"Arabs are not playing games at all; they are serious about this process and want a genuine settlement," Dr. Nasir said. "I think that now the Arabs, particularly the Palestinians, are showing the whole world their case."

"We are serious about this, and I don't think we are playing games," said Waleed Tash, a former secretary general of the Foreign Ministry. "Games should be behind us and we should look forward to an era of courage, wisdom and seriousness."

Dr. Nusseibeh said: "I approve of the Arab role, and the delegates in Washington should not be provoked by the ill manners of the Israelis. 'The Arabs should stick to their guns and be patient, and they should continue to show the courage and self-control that they have showed so far.'"

Since their arrival in Washington two days ahead of the scheduled Dec. 4 talks, heads of the Arab delegations have reemphasised their commitment to the peace process and accused the Jewish state of trying to derail the entire effort.

Arab delegates also noted that although there was evident criticism in statements made by State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler on the Israeli absence, Washington's position was not regarded as one of the most significant retraction from its stand by Washington, which had

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Agriculture Minister Fayez Khasawneh (centre) Saturday delivers His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan's address to the Arab Farmers Cooperatives Conference. Addressing the conference were also Jordan Cooperative Organisation

(JCO) Director General Jamal Al Bedour (right) and the representative of the Arab Farming Cooperatives Federation secretary general, Abdul Rahman Tokaidi (Petra photo)

Modern technology needed to increase food production in Arab World, Crown Prince says

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Saturday urged Arab countries to adopt modern technology in farming and to facilitate the exchange of agricultural products among themselves in a bid to ensure food security for the nation.

The Prince's call came in an address delivered on his behalf by Agriculture Minister Fayez Al Khasawneh at the opening of a three-day conference on farming cooperatives organised by the Arab Farming Cooperatives Federation (ARCF).

Delegates from 11 countries, including Jordan, are discussing general federation policy and plans to promote agricultural cooperatives work with special attention to the occupied Arab lands.

"Farmers will always remain the basic factor in the Arab countries' drive to ensure food security," said the Crown Prince in his address. But, he noted, that the farmers and food-producers have been victims to numerous pressures in most Arab countries and affected by bureaucratic decisions that overlooked the close relationship between the farmer and the land and the farmers' attachment to their freedoms and independence.

Unfortunately, the Prince said, most government policies had minimised the importance of agriculture as a area for economic investment and ignored the fact that investors in farming face numerous risks while striving to ensure for themselves reasonable returns.

When drawing up agricultural policies in the future, such factors have to be taken into account on the part of planners and decision-makers, he said. They should also upgrade services to people in the rural regions to provide them with an incentive to double their efforts, he said.

The Prince said carefully planned policies for importing and exporting food products should be worked out so that the result could be beneficial for the consumer and the producer alike. Any development not based on science and modern technology will not succeed, the Crown Prince said. He stressed that modern technology is vital for continued progress and for ensuring food security.

Referring to integration among Arab countries, the Crown Prince said that food exchanges do not exceed 10 per cent in overall inter-Arab trading. There is no alternative to inter-Arab cooperation and the removal of restrictions related to trade if agricultural progress is to be achieved, the Prince said.

Prince Hassan said previous policies concerning production and the presence of barriers in the face of trade caused many Arab states to suffer from lack of sufficient food like Iraq, Sudan and Somalia. The lack of food security has become a chronic problem for many Arab states, which now allocate vast sums of money for imports, the Prince added.

Prince Hassan referred to the 1980 Arab summit in Amman which he said endorsed basic principles for socio-economic development in the Arab world. But, nothing has been done and the \$5 billion allocation for a fund to finance such endeavours for the 1981-1990 era never materialised, he said.

Prince Hassan referred to the civil war in southern Sudan as the major obstacle to agricultural projects designed to ensure food security for that Arab country. "It is time for the guns and rockets to fall silent and efforts to be directed towards producing food to rid the Arab World of poverty and hunger," Prince Hassan said.

san said.

According to the Prince Hassan, the inhabitants of the Arab World constitute 4.4 per cent of the total world population, but the total Arab World's food production constitutes only 1.6 per cent of the overall world production.

Between 1981 and 1983, the Arab World imported 23 million tonnes of cereals on an annual level, rising to 33 million in 1989, he said.

The Crown Prince urged the meeting to give due concern to issues facing Arab farmers and cooperatives as part of an overall effort to find solutions to the food security issue in the Arab World. Prince Hassan's views were echoed by Jordan Cooperative Organisation (JCO) Director General Jamal Al Bedour, who referred the numerous challenges facing the Arabs.

The Agricultural sector is the source of income for 53 per cent of Arabs, but food production remains low, he said.

Dr. Bedour estimated the Arab World's needs of imported food by the end of the present century at \$360 billion. He said it is regrettable that only \$2 billion has been invested in agriculture over the past two decades, accounting for only 11.4 per cent of total Arab investments.

Dr. Bedour urged the federation to adopt a pan-Arab strategy designed to give impetus to economic integration through promoting food production and facilitating the exchange of food products.

Delegates attending the meeting represent Jordan, Sudan, Eritrea, Tunisia, Yemen, Palestine, Mauritania, Syria, Iraq, Libya and Egypt. The delegates are expected to conduct field trips to the northern Jordan Valley region during the upcoming three days.

Upper, Lower houses call for unity, pledge to work with government

AMMAN (Petra) — The Upper House of Parliament Saturday emphasised its backing to the government's endeavour to coordinate Jordan's position with those of the Palestinians and other Arab countries for the sake of achieving a just and durable Middle East peace.

The House also supported the government's efforts to restructure the national economy and expressed its pride in the Armed Forces, which it pledged to support and strengthen to provide protection to the nation in the face of all dangers.

The Upper House made the commitment in a reply speech to the speech from the throne delivered by His Majesty King Hussein to Parliament last Sunday.

The reply speech, delivered before His Majesty King Hussein in a traditional ceremony held at Raghadan Palace, said that the house members take pride in the democratic process being applied in Jordan and the King's directives aimed at attaining further progress and a better life for Jordanians.

Practising democracy requires full awareness and commitment to values, principles and laws, otherwise the country would live in anarchy and the people would lose their freedom and their dignity, said House Speaker Ahmad Al Lawzi as he read from the speech.

"We are keen on maintaining dialogue among various groups based on mutual respect and to avoid all tendencies that could create divisions and mistrust," said Mr. Lawzi.

The National Charter contained principles and concepts that can form a framework for close cooperation between Parliament and the executive authority and the Upper House looks forward to such cooperation with a view to promoting development in the country in all fields, said Mr. Lawzi.

The House is keen on maintaining such cooperation to develop education, the national economy, social work and public administration as well as to safeguard the environment, human rights and social justice, Mr. Lawzi added.

The Upper House, he said, will contribute towards bringing into force a law on political parties and another on press and publications among other laws to be submitted by the government. Noting that Jordan has continuously dealt with the Palestine question in the spirit of national responsibility, Mr. Lawzi said that the Upper House will continue to back the government's endeavour to help the Palestinians regain their rights and their usurped lands including Arab Jerusalem.

The Upper House will also support the government's efforts to reach a peaceful settlement through the Middle East peace conference based on the principles of justice. It will also support the government's drive to coordinate positions towards this end with the Palestinians and other Arab states, Mr. Lawzi said.

The Upper House will support all steps to strengthen the Armed Forces — the shield of the nation — and measures to provide the Armed Forces with sophisticated weapons to help them carry out their duties and protect the country's independence, Mr. Lawzi said.

He said that the Upper House will also support the Public Security Department (PSD), and security services in their efforts to protect people and their property and ensure the dominance of tranquility and peace in the country.

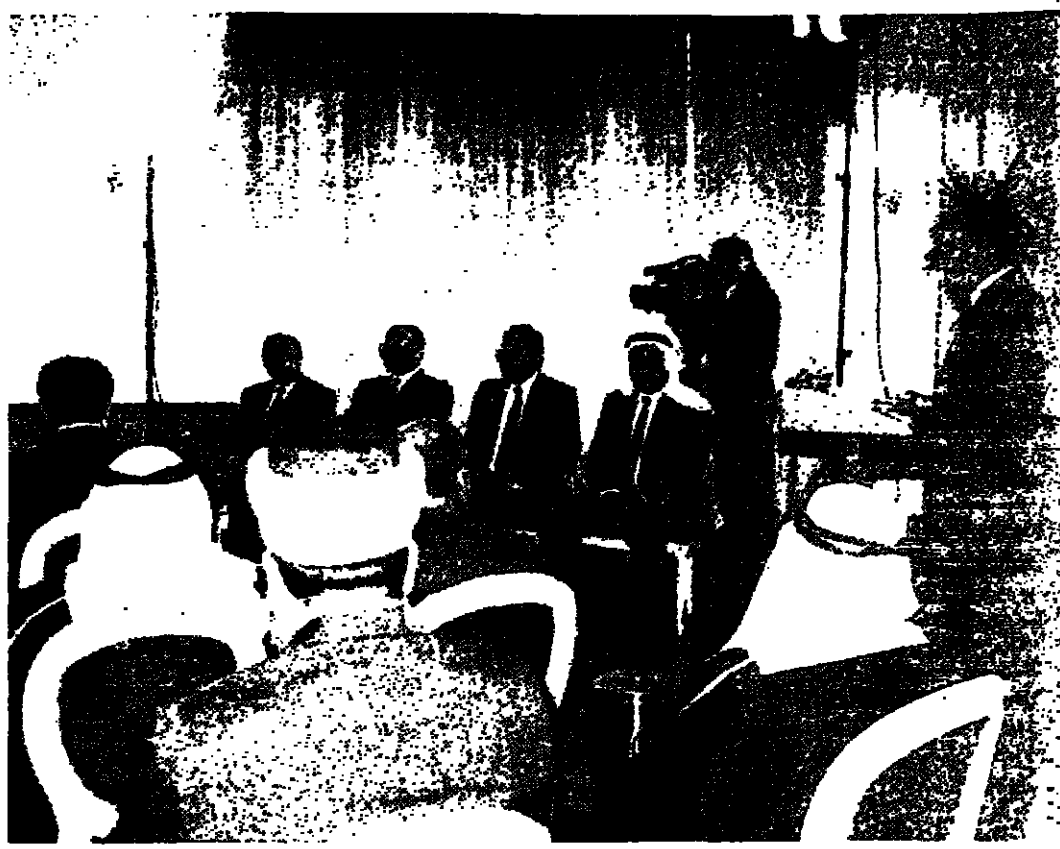
Furthermore, the Upper House gives due support to the government's programmes for overhauling the educational system and its drive to encourage cultural and youth activity. It also supports the government's attempts to help Jordan acquire modern technology for continued and sustainable development, Mr. Lawzi said.

He voiced the House's support for the government's programme to enhance the role of information and national guidance and in promoting the role of mosque preachers in guiding worshippers towards national unity.

Mr. Lawzi referred to the consequences of the Gulf crisis on Jordan's relations with other Arab countries and said the crisis weakened the role of the Arab League and its institutions. Therefore, the House appreciates any move on the part of the government to reestablish solidarity among Arab states on the basis of mutual respect and common interests, he said.

The House follows with concern the sufferings of the Iraqi people and the deprivation of Iraqi children of the necessary food and medicine resulting from the continued blockade imposed on Iraq, Mr. Lawzi said. He added that the House appeals to Arab and Islamic countries and the world to end the embargo and Iraq's sufferings.

Referring to the convergence on Jordan by 900,000 refugees from the Gulf following Iraq's occupation of Kuwait and 300,000 Jordanian and Palestinian expatriates forced out from Kuwait, Mr. Lawzi said that the House supports the government's efforts to deal with the consequences of such a situation. The House also backs all endeavours to curtail unemployment, adjust the balance of payments and re-



Lower House Speaker Abdul Latif Arabiyat Saturday reads the House's reply speech to the

speech from the throne at Raghadan Palace (Photo by Yousef Al 'Allam)

duce the deficit in the country's fiscal budget, he said.

The House supports policies designed to control public spending and boost investments by the private sector, he said. He urged the government to speed up measures designed to deal with poverty and unemployment and to give these two issues priority in its reform programme.

The ideas contained in the Upper House's reply speech were echoed by a speech from the Lower House read out before the King at Raghadan Palace Saturday.

The main theme of the reply speech, which was read out on behalf of the House by its speaker, Abdul Latif Arabiyat, centered on the government's drive to carry out economic reforms, support and bolster the strength of the Armed Forces and the public security services and pursue endeavours to help the Palestinian people regain their rights and their usurped homeland.

The Lower House believes in true democracy, which means respect for people's views, tolerance, integrity, commitment to the provisions of the constitution and commitment to the principles of the National Charter, said Dr. Arabiyat in the reply speech.

He said that the Lower House supports the executive authority in its drive to achieve justice and equality to bring Jordanians a

sense of stability, security and tranquility and to safeguard public freedoms.

"The Lower House emphasises and pledges before Your Majesty that it will show full cooperation with all parties and will exercise its prerogatives within the constitution and with responsibility, awareness and integrity," Dr. Arabiyat said.

The Lower House, Dr. Arabiyat said, is committed to the principles that guarantee public interest without exceeding its limits.

He said that the Lower House will shoulder its responsibility towards legislation and enacting draft laws with the law on political parties and press and publication to be given priority. Since Jordan's legislations and laws need modernising, the House will fully cooperate with the executive authority towards achieving this end, Dr. Arabiyat added.

He voiced the House's support to the government's endeavours to strengthen the Armed Forces and the security services. He also said that the House will support the government in its drive to introduce reform and bring about changes, especially in public administration which serves as a tool for development.

Dr. Arabiyat expressed the House's wish to see a decentralisation process in a bid to promote democracy.

Referring to the economic

situation resulting from the Gulf crisis and the blockade imposed on Jordan, Dr. Arabiyat said the Kingdom is in need of a comprehensive national economic programme provided that the largest number of economists and responsible personalities take part in its formation and that Parliament take part in its discussion and endorsement.

He said that the House calls on the government to place poverty, unemployment, the country's foreign debts and the deficit in the country's fiscal budget at the top of the list of priorities in its programmes.

The House also supports continued contacts with Arab countries to heal the rift among Arab states and reestablish solidarity at the outset of the emergency of the new world order, said Dr. Arabiyat. The House, he added, gives full support to the government in its drive to help the Palestinians regain their lands and their rights by all possible means.

Jordan will continue to share with the Palestinians their just struggle for freedom and independence, he said.

The audience with the King was attended by Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, Chief of the Royal Court Adnan Abu Odeh, Chief Chamberlain Prince Raad Ben Zeid and other officials.

Prominent American politicians, personalities to attend ADC conference

AMMAN (Petra) — Prominent American politicians, intellectuals, and personalities will attend a two-day meeting in Amman Wednesday to discuss issues of the Middle East and ways to help Arab-Americans offer service to their home countries.

The Wednesday gathering will take the form of a series of meetings organised by the American-Arab Anti Discrimination Committee (ADC) to discuss questions related to the Arab homeland and to enhance Arab-Americans' ties with the Arab World, said Wafa Nasser, ADC vice chairman.

Mr. Nasser said that ADC, founded in 1980 for the purpose of defending Arab-American rights, aims to orient Arab-Americans on their Arab culture and end discrimination against

Arab-American students and workers.

He said that the ADC, which has its main office in Washington D.C., groups Arab-Americans, but is backed by Americans of different affiliations. The ADC, which has wide recognition throughout the U.S., has been providing humanitarian assistance to the people of the Middle East through its charitable programme, Mr. Nasser said.

He said that the ADC has 74 branches, four of which are in Canada, and it groups 28,000 members, with services benefiting all information centres throughout the U.S.

Mr. Nasser said that the ADC has been exposed to hostile campaigns on the part of the Zionist lobby in the U.S. Its Washington offices, he said, were victim of

arson while the director of its California office, Alex Odeh, was killed in a bomb attack in 1985.

According to Mr. Nasser, the ADC had struggled hard through contacts with the American public and Congress to settle the Gulf crisis by peaceful means and to avoid bloodshed.

Furthermore, the ADC had lobbied hard to ensure that Israel does not receive a \$10 billion loan guarantee from the U.S., where millions are homeless and in dire need of help, Mr. Nasser said.

The ADC Amman office, he said, is a support centre providing services to Arab citizens. Mr. Nasser said that the ADC has been working hard to promote development in the Arab World in a neutral manner without interfering in the Arab World's internal issues.

Parliament urges United Nations to lift Iraq sanctions

AMMAN (R) — Parliament urged the United Nations on Saturday to lift economic sanctions on Iraq for its August 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

"We are anxiously looking forward to a wise decision to lift the siege," the 80-seat Lower House said in a cable to U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Celler.

U.S.-led allied forces drove Kuwait out of the emirate in February. Parliament said it saw no reason for maintaining the trade embargo, originally designed to achieve that goal.

The Security Council began a periodic review of sanctions

on Friday. It will meet again on Monday to consider a proposal for a U.N. report on the extent of Iraq's compliance with council decisions.

But Britain's envoy said he did not expect any easing of sanctions when the latest review, conducted every 60 days, was completed.

Parliament said: "We urge international, social and humanitarian organisations and world countries to provide the necessary aid to restore life to those deprived as a result of U.N. resolutions."

Jordan officially remained neutral in the Gulf war despite

massive popular support, reflected in Parliament, for Iraq's defiance of the West.

Parliament voted unanimously to send the appeal to Mr. Perez de Celler. But Islamist Deputy Leith Shbeilat protested, saying members should first ask the government to reverse its adherence to sanctions imposed "to bring down the Iraqi leadership."

Jordan, allowing huge amounts of food and medicine into Iraq as permitted by the U.N., says it is trying hard to curb cross-border sanctions busting.

OIC preparatory meetings reaffirm support for Palestinian, Arab-Israeli solution

DAKAR (J.T.) — Heads of Arab delegations attending meetings to prepare for the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) summit in Dakar, Senegal, have adopted a number of decisions concerning the Palestine question and the Arab-Israeli conflict, according to Foreign Minister Kamel Abu Jaber.

The Arab delegations met on the sidelines of the OIC summit preparatory meetings adopted resolutions related to the peace process and measures to support efforts designed to find a just settlement to the Palestine problem in accordance with international legitimacy, said Dr. Abu Jaber, who leads Jordan's delegation to the preparatory meetings. He said that the Arab delegations emphasised the need for Israel's total commitment to international legitimacy, which guarantees full Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Arab lands including Arab Jerusalem.



Kamel Abu Jaber

said that the meetings among the delegations resulted in a voice of support for the peace process, which aims at the implementation of U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338 and other resolutions.

There is unanimous support for the idea of safeguarding Arab Jerusalem and a halt to Israeli settlements on Arab lands to

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

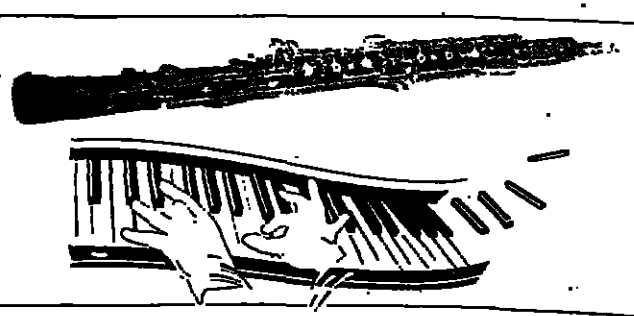
- ★ Exhibition of scientific and technical books at the University of Jordan.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by a group of Iraqi artists at Alia Art Gallery.
- ★ Art exhibition by Jumana Al Hussaini at Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation Gallery.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Jalal Orziqat at the Phoenix Art Gallery.
- ★ Antique Christmas show of Julia Hanania at the Marriott Hotel.

POETRY RECITAL

- ★ Poetry recital of Arabic and French poems by Arab Canadian poet Mona Ghattas at the Phoenix Art Gallery — 6 p.m.

The National Music Conservatory / Noor Al Hussein Foundation presents

Sulafa and Otail Haddad and Leith Ismail in a piano and oboe recital



Monday, December 9, 1991 at 8:00 p.m. The Royal Cultural Centre - Main Hall In the programme pieces by: Chopin, Haydn, Prokofiev and others.

Tickets, for JD 4 each, are available at: The Royal Cultural Centre, Tel. 669026 Babiche, Tel. 661322 The National Music Conservatory, Tel. 667620

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

Princess Ghaida opens exhibition

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Ghaida Talal opened Saturday in the presence of the King's military secretary, His Royal Highness Prince Talal Ben Muhammad, an art exhibition by Jumana Hussaini at Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation Gallery. The exhibition, which includes 43 paintings, will last till the end of the month.

German officials leave

AMMAN (Petra) — A two-member German Ministry of Interior delegation left Amman Saturday after a five-day visit to Jordan during which they were received by His Majesty King Hussein. The delegation, which included Hans-Ludwig Zachart, president of the Federal Criminal Investigation Bureau, and Hagen Fabars-

chenky, director of the Anti-Narcotics Department, also held meetings with Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, Interior Minister Jawdat Al Shoul and Public Security Department (PSD) Director Major General Fadel Ali Fuhaid. The talks centred on ways of promoting Jordanian-German cooperation in criminal investigation fields, particularly in combating drugs.

Lower House to meet Sunday

AMMAN (Petra) — The Lower House of Parliament will hold a meeting today, under the chairmanship of Speaker Abdul Latif Arabiyat and in the presence of the cabinet members. The agenda of the meeting includes electing the House's permanent and temporary committees, referring several reports issued by the Upper House to the specialised committees and referring the 1992 General Budget Law to the Financial Committee.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation
Established 1975
مجلس النشر بؤنة عربية سياسية مستقلة تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية

Chairman of the Board of Directors:

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Jordan Press Foundation,

University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 667171/6, 670141-4

Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

Facsimile: 661242

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.

Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times advertising department.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

Economic adjustment without delay

By Dr. Fahed Faneh

IN the advanced countries, the potential economic problems are always subjected to evaluation and analysis from various points of view at an early time, before the problems grow big and sometimes even before they exist. Therefore, decision-makers in both the government and the private sector find themselves under continued pressure to tackle the problems and find the right remedy before it is too late. American budget deficit is the exception, not the rule.

On the contrary, the governments in the backward countries (so-called developing countries) try to ignore and deny the creeping economic problems and use all the artificial means to postpone their explosion. These governments usually dismiss any talk about the economic problems as irresponsible, and destructive. Sometimes, the governments, which lack legitimacy and integrity would submit to the popular pressures to maintain the status quo, preserve the vested interests at any price, and defer taking action to correct the situation to the last possible moment. Problems thus accumulate and get worse and worse, month after month and year after year, until they reach the point of crisis and explode suddenly with devastating effects.

For example, we find that the central banks in the industrialised countries raise the interest rate gradually to prevent or check inflation. They lower interest rates to activate the economy and fight recessions. The governments impose more taxes or check their public expenditure to reduce deficit. Industrial companies

conduct market studies to keep abreast of the market trends, try to adapt their policies accordingly, produce the right product demanded by the market, maintain competitiveness, and remain low cost suppliers ahead of competitors in both the domestic and international markets.

The case in the Eastern bloc was exactly the opposite. The Soviet Union used to deny the existence of any degree of inflation. It was trying to achieve this impossible objective by suppressing inflation pressures through compulsory prices which were not realistic and did not reflect the actual cost. The result was that inflation accumulated and finally exploded in one lot. Inflation rate in the Soviet Union is running now at the rate of 700 per cent.

Developing countries used to stick to an unrealistic rate of exchange to their currencies. Governments were under the false impression that it is a matter of national pride to maintain the rate of exchange of their respective currencies intact, no matter what. The results were distortions in the market, capital flight and loss of competitiveness. Finally reality settles in and the domestic currency loses 50 per cent or more of its official value, while much less devaluation would have been sufficient, had the monetary authorities taken action before it was too late.

Today we find out that the Jordanian economy is in need for a comprehensive adjustment programme to reform and remove the distortions, face the huge deficit in the central government's

budget, fill the gap in the balance of payments and promote new investments to secure reasonable growth and create jobs. At the same time we find that the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the countries that are able to help, such as Europe, Japan and America are all ready to extend a helping hand.

At this crucial moment, narrow-minded voices are raised to push the Jordanian government to act like any other government in a backward country, to deny the real economic problem or postpone remedy, or pretend to be able to solve the problem by its own means and resources without calling on the IMF for help. In this manner more time may be bought, but with the risk of letting the problem grow bigger and eventually having the Jordanian people pay a higher price.

Will Jordan take a rational attitude and utilise the prevailing world order to its best interest, or take a rhetorical position and unnecessarily meet the problem head on?

The state has already chosen the responsible course of action. The economic adjustment programme recommended by the IMF for the years 1992-1998 was formally approved by the Council of Ministers of the outgoing government. It was confirmed by the terms of reference of the new government, as stipulated in His Majesty King Hussein's letter to the new prime minister and reiterated in the address from the throne, which is the new government programme submitted to the Parliament for confidence.

Dakar's golden opportunity

THE ISLAMIC summit scheduled to begin in the Senegalese capital Dakar on Monday is expected to draw a record number of Islamic heads of state in view of the recent dramatic changes on the international scene. The Dec. 9 summit in effect provides the first occasion for the Islamic World to reassess the new international order that emerged from the demise of the communist world and the Soviet Union and measure its impact on the Muslim World. The Islamic summit is equally important and relevant as it will provide the Arab leaders a unique forum to hold informal talks to heal the wounds that were inflicted by the Gulf war as well as an opportunity to articulate an Arab response to the new international order. From an Arab and Islamic point of view the Dakar gathering is a timely exercise that neither the Arab World nor the Islamic nations can afford to miss or misuse.

The Islamic agenda is undoubtedly large and full of pressing issues and challenges ranging from economic, cultural and political issues that concern the Islamic peoples everywhere to soul-searching endeavours about where the Muslims of the world are heading in terms of political, social and economic development and cultural enlightenment. The leaders meeting in Dakar know very well that Islam once provided the world with a glorious, enlightened and progressive civilisation that at its heydays influenced European renaissance and hence shaped contemporary Western thought and science. As things stand today there obviously is something terribly wrong in the way the contemporary Muslims are conducting their domestic affairs and pursuing their external interests. It must have dawned on Muslims everywhere that their place in the world is nowhere near to where it should be. Many contemporary Muslim theologians point the finger to the prolonged closure of "Bab Al Mawt" (Independent judgement) in Islam as the root cause of Islamic decline. Whatever the reason or reasons for the downfall of Islamic strength and relevancy, the subject deserves an honest and frank deliberation on the occasion of the Dakar summit.

The Arab agenda on the sideline of the Islamic summit is as, if not more, important. The Arab World is suffering from unprecedented division and weakness. What accentuates the need for the restoration of Arab solidarity and cooperation is the ongoing peace negotiations between Israel and the concerned Arab parties. Surely what the Arab side is discussing now in Washington, or will be discussing elsewhere in the future, is of far-reaching impact not only on the Arab parties negotiating with Israel but also on the rest of the Arab countries and peoples. On the occasion of the Islamic summit, the Arab leaders should have an ample opportunity to frankly air out their differences with maximum honesty with a view to forging a new Arab order that would replace the ancient regime of the Arab League. It would be a sad day if the Arab leaders forsook this golden occasion and let this rare and precious opportunity slip away unexploited for the goodness of the Arab peoples everywhere.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RAI Arabic daily Saturday drew contrast between the reaction of the Western leaders to Iraq's occupation of Kuwait in August 1990 and their current behaviour vis-a-vis Israel's intransigence and its rejection of the international legitimacy. The paper said when Iraq occupied Kuwait, President Bush, followed by the heads of all major nations of the world, issued threats against Iraq, passed U.N. Security Council resolutions condemning it and later waged a devastating war on its people only six months after that occupation. The work which was watching the Western leaders saw them determined to and enthusiastic about carrying out Security Council resolutions in order to ensure continued respect for international principles and the world is watching the present behaviour of the American and European leaders with regard to Israel's defiance of the international legitimacy, its continued occupation of Arab lands and its disregard to calls of peace, the paper pointed out. It said that the American president and his allies are silent and the U.N. secretary general is doing nothing to implement resolutions passed a quarter of a century ago. The Western leaders are not issuing a warning or threat to the Jewish state and its leaders for their disregard to international principles, the paper added. Everything seems to be controlled by the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) of the United States, which controls the media and prevents it from even taking photos of the vacant seats of the Israeli negotiators in the conference halls in Washington, the paper said. The paper wondered what the American president and his allies would do in order to help implement Security Council resolutions and urged the Western media to expose the hypocrisy and deceit of the Western allies.

It was not surprising to find that the Washington peace talks were hindered by Israel's manoeuvres as this was expected by the Arab countries, said Al Dastour daily. The Israelis had also created problems over the Madrid conference and they would do that again anywhere, simply because they are not satisfied with these talks as they would lead to an end to Israel's occupation of Arab land, the paper continued. It was clear from the very beginning, and since Washington decided to try its hand with the Arab-Israeli question, that the Israeli leaders are against peace especially if peace entails exchange for occupied Arab land, the paper said. It said that the United States did not wait for Iraq to withdraw peacefully from Kuwait in 1990, but carried out a devastating war on the Iraqi people who continue to suffer until now. Israel, said the paper, was determined to reject peace and the talks in Washington and it continues to disregard U.N. resolutions which motivated the American president and his allies to launch war on Iraq. The paper said that the world is astonished at the American passive attitude towards such defiance. What is more ominous, the paper added, is to see Israel's behaviour causing United States' possible retreat from its endeavour to achieve a lasting peace in the region.

By Eric Hobsbawm

EVERY editorialist in the West has told us that communism has collapsed because it didn't work and capitalism has triumphed because it did. Nowhere should that triumph be more visible than in the greatest capitalist society, the one which has most consistently relied on the market and the profit incentive, and the one which is still, with 43 per cent of the total GDP of the developed world (i.e. of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) countries) the dominant Western economy. But neither the mood nor the reality of the U.S. at the moment of Soviet collapse is triumphalist.

I write this in an apartment on Union Square, New York, part of a complex of high-rise towers and office space looking a bit like a King Kong-sized toy town, which was the last completed monument of the great property development boom of the eighties. Its most characteristic inhabitants appear to be Japanese — anything outside Japan is a bargain for them — but the financial services firm which was to occupy the entire commercial base of the buildings went bust in 1990, and most of the office windows are dark.

"Hard times are palpable in Union Square," as the commercial property column of the New York Times correctly reports. Upwards of half a million square feet of commercial space are vacant around the square, without counting the parking lots and ruins of old property still waiting for the golden future as sites for condominiums. For the time being, the future has run out.

Only the cops watch over it round the Union Square park, from which the drug dealers and the homeless were cleared away at the start of the eighties boom to create the right atmosphere for estate agents' clients. Two police cars are permanently stationed there as a reminder, and the last homeless have just been chased away towards unknown destinations.

Along one side of it runs 14th Street, the Oxford Street of the Latino poor, where transactions are conducted in Spanish and men sit on ladders on the pavement, facing into the open stores and bazaars, to watch out for potential shoplifters of \$5 shirts and discount cosmetics. Today their view is uninterrupted. You could now jog along the once-packed pavements.

Money is scarce, which is not surprising since 9 to 10 per cent of the New York Labour force is unemployed and, more to the point, about one million of the city's seven million inhabitants are on public assistance. But even those who still have money — there is plenty of it about in this town — are not immune. Airlines advertise bargains for the thrifty rich, and firms offer part-

exchange and second-hand deals on luxury watches. Next time around they will have to find a new euphemism for "slump" because "recession" no longer sounds milder and better.

Equally striking to the foreigner is the sheer decline in the technology of everyday life, which used to be the pride of Americans and the amazement of visitors from the backward old world. It isn't only the public infrastructure, although the impression of a city on the verge of the Third World is sometimes hard to avoid, especially when (as today) an 87-year-old watermain has just burst, shutting down 42nd Street for an undetermined period. (As in other rich economies, the media now take pride not in how well things function, but how quickly they are patched up.)

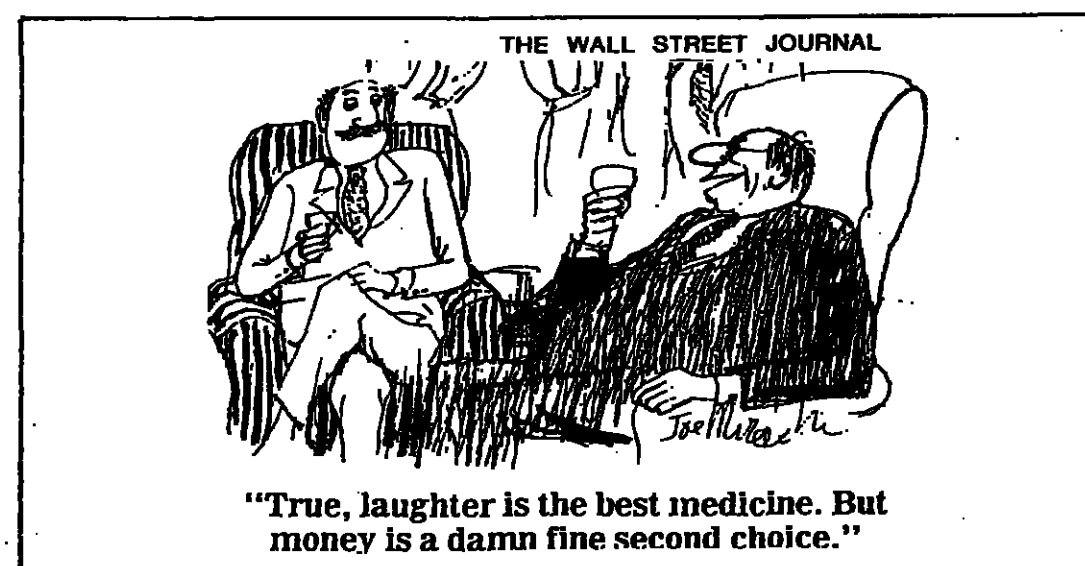
Recently the entire air traffic of New York was paralysed for the best part of a day by a breakdown in a sub-station of A.T.&T., that byword for telecommunications efficiency. To put it briefly, the mechanics of daily life no longer work efficiently, the way we expect them to do in, say, Sweden or Austria, without causing surprise.

New York, you will say, is a special case, and this is no doubt true. We, in Philadelphia, a mayor's commission on literacy and those friends of human-kind, the Philip Morris Companies Inc. took out a full-page advertisement to point out that one of four Philadelphians is actually or functionally illiterate.

Inner cities, minority-inhabited, are perhaps also special cases. But in California, the great open frontier of the American dream, to which men and women have been migrating in numbers so vast that its population, now about 30 million, is almost half as large again as the next-largest U.S. state, and more than one of every 10 Americans is today a Californian? Yet (the New York Times again) "the recession... has hit California particularly hard, leaving its once-robust economy to bring up the rear of the national recovery," which, in spite of rosy predictions, shows no signs of happening.

But observers "also point to many other factors, including high housing costs... traffic congestion, crime, deteriorating social services" to explain the novel fact that in the past year more people at the peak of their working lives (30 to 44 years old) have left California than have moved in. People are beginning to move out of Los Angeles the way they have long moved out of New York.

The truth is that the U.S. as a whole has ceased to be a good advertisement for capitalism, even in straightforward economic terms. The strongest calling point for the American way of life was material improvement. That is



still what immigrants expect to find, and do find, when they cross the rapidly widening income gap between the developed North and the Third World. But not the natives, except for the top fifth of the nation's income-earners, or more exactly the top 5 per cent, who have done spectacularly well in the era of Reaganism, as under Thatcher.

From the 1979-89 the shares of total income accruing to each of the bottom four-fifths declined. The top 1 per cent of families improved their income by almost 75 per cent; the bottom 20 per cent dropped by 4.4 per cent. In other words, inequality grew dramatically.

In absolute terms, the after-tax income of the bottom 40 per cent of Americans was lower at the end of the decade than in 1979. This is perhaps not surprising, since real hourly wages over this decade fell by 9.3 per cent. In fact, four-fifths of married families with children would have had lower incomes than 10 years ago, if the women of the families had not taken jobs or worked longer.

In fact, today almost one in 10 Americans can buy their food only with the help of government "food stamps" which pay for only some of it. In 1970 only two in 100 did so. Food stamps are available only to Americans who earn not more than \$1,117 a month for a family of four (roughly £140 a week by the exchange rate of early November 1991), and who have a car worth not more than \$4,500 (roughly £2,600) and assets of no more than \$2,000 (£1,100). In short, who are undeniably poor.

This stagnation, or even decline, in the condition of the American people is new. Though the phenomenon is more extreme in the U.S. it is actually quite general. After a golden age which lasted from the late forties to the early-to-middle seventies, capitalism is once more in trouble. Those of us who live comfortably in the rich countries of the North have failed to recognise this for three reasons.

The welfare state systems of reformed post-war capitalism

provide more shelter against slumps than in the thirties. The main industrial countries have not felt the full force of the global economic hurricane which devastated other regions in the eighties, like Latin America and Africa. Last, but not least, the collapse of communism has diverted attention from the troubles of our system.

But in the early nineties, it must be recognised that it is once again in trouble. For a generation, capitalism did what nobody before the war thought it was capable of: it created full employment. But since the seventies, mass unemployment is back. In 1960 five West European industrial countries averaged under 1.7 per cent unemployment; but at the peak of the late-eighties boom, they stood at 8.5 per cent (during the slump of the early eighties, they averaged 11 per cent).

For a generation, most people in the development countries assumed that their real income would go up every year of their working life, rain or shine. Governments, employers, and unions learned to operate on this assumption in the long golden years, though they disagreed about how big the rise should be, how it should be distributed and how it should be justified. By the seventies most of us would have been outraged by the mere idea that a person's real wage should stay the same for a decade, let alone actually decline. Yet the U.S. shows that this can once again happen.

For a generation, the welfare and social security systems of most developed countries supplemented earnings and sheltered the economically weak or unlucky to a far greater extent than ever before, more than by tax revenues which rose with the vast growth of the economies, they became more comprehensive and generous. Maternity benefits, for instance, which in the fifties were paid on average for 12 weeks had been raised by the seventies, to six months in Germany, 31 weeks in Italy, and 35

weeks in Finland. In fact, such "transfer payments" came to be a main part of household incomes (more than one-third in France in the early eighties).

It is doubtful whether this expansion could have continued at the same rate even if there had been no slump. In any case, as the rate of economic growth in the capitalist world fell dramatically after the early seventies and tax revenues no longer kept pace with expenditures, the cost of social security (as a percentage of national resources) rose.

As capitalist profits were squeezed, business bitterly resented its cost. Hence the attacks on the welfare state in the eighties, notably in the Reaganite U.S. and Thatcherite Britain. Poverty amid plenty is once again with us. Again, for a generation, the fluctuations of boom and slump, the trade cycles which constitute the basic rhythm of the capitalist economy, seemed to have lost their jagged edges. Slumps were little more than mild dips in the rising curve of economic growth; booms merely accentuated its rise. But good old-fashioned slumps of the kind that only the elderly remembered in the seventies are with us again, even if politicians shy away from comparing what happened in the early eighties — and again today — with the thirties. Capitalism can no longer rely on continuous growth.

Exactly why, to everyone's surprise, including its own, capitalism entered a golden age after the World War II — the French call it "the 30 glorious years" — is a question which historians and economists still debate. Nor is there a consensus about why this era ended in the early seventies. But there can be no doubt that it did end, and that since its end the capitalist world economy has been going through an era of troubles. The rate of growth of its world output in the eighties was less than half that of the sixties; the rate of growth of world trade had fallen more.

There is no call for apocalyptic forecasts, even though eastern Europe and the USSR show that

troubled, but quite operational, economic systems can go to pieces suddenly when some non-economic shock disrupts them. Capitalism will presumably get over this period of secular crisis, as it got over similar periods, even if dark age between the wars. But I would hazard two guesses. The golden decades of a capitalism without serious economic and social problems won't come back; and capitalism will need to be reformed yet again, as in the Keynesian era.

This is ironic paradox behind the rise of Reaganism, Thatcherism, and the neo-liberal economic ultras of the seventies and eighties. They claimed to save the world from the forces of public ownership, bureaucracy, welfare states and socialism, which strangled the economy. In fact, what they attacked was the reformed post-war capitalism which had produced the golden age that ended in the seventies. They attacked the contradictions of the most successful phase of capitalism there has ever been, because even that generated its own era of crises; and they were themselves symptoms of these contradictions.

If one thing should have been clear from the start, and was demonstrated by the attempts to put neo-liberal economics into practice in West and East — not least in the U.S. and Britain — it was that economic policies based exclusively on the unrestrained free market do not produce economic growth and internationally competitive economies, and they incur a horrendous social cost. Forty years ago, every government of a capitalist country, most of their big businessmen, and practically all economists took this for granted. It is still self-evidently true.

That is why even among economists, the fashion for pure, free-market neo-liberalism has been rapidly waning. It is yesterday's truth, though one which still determines the selection of Nobel prize laureates in economics. What is wrong with capitalism or, for that matter, with the old centrally planned command economies of the Soviet type, is not put right simply by handing everything over to the unrestricted free market. This should be obvious, even to Moscow in 1991.

Building or rebuilding viable, flourishing and humane economies, even for those who believe that, in the mixed economies of the future, capitalist elements should prevail, requires more than a return to suitable principles excerpted from Adam Smith. It requires an understanding of how capitalism as a world system operates, how it evolves, and what the contradictions are that keep it changing.

And that, among other things, is why there is a place for Marxism today, even if no longer in the pages of Marxism Today. — Marxism Today.

Samuel Skinner, alias 'The Hammer', alias 'Master of Disaster'

WASHINGTON (R) — Samuel Skinner, the new White House chief of staff, is a long-time ally of President George Bush who was nicknamed "The Hammer" during his days as a tough-talking federal prosecutor in Chicago.

In his three years as Mr. Bush's transportation secretary he has picked up another tag — "master of disaster" — for his role as the president's on-the-scene man at crises ranging from the Exxon Valdez oil spill in Alaska to the 1989 San Francisco earthquake and Hurricane Hugo.

Mr. Skinner, 53, a licensed jet pilot, was a protégé of former

Illinois Governor James Thompson, a moderate Republican.

Mr. Skinner, an early Bush political backer, supported him for president in 1980, the year the nomination went to former President Ronald Reagan.

When Vice President Bush was seeking the Republican presidential nomination in 1988, Mr. Skinner managed his successful Illinois primary campaign.

His reward was a post in the Bush cabinet and he established a high profile. The Washingtonian Magazine ranked him the outstanding cabinet member in 1989 and 1990.

The Chicago Tribune recently

described Mr. Skinner as "a skilled political operative who tries to build consensus and knocks heads only as a last resort."

He seemed to fulfil that description as transportation secretary.

Although he carried Mr. Bush's laissez-faire policies to congressmen who like to write laws to cure problems, he is said to have used tact and gotten on quite well with them.

"The relationship has generally been amicable and professional. There have been some disagreements over policy, but no personality problems," said a Democratic house aide.

Some in the transportation industry that he dealt with, disagreed, saying he generally favoured automobile interests at the expense of other transportation sectors.

One industry source quoted Mr. Skinner as saying several months ago that Pan American World Airways was doomed to failure. The airline went out of business on Wednesday.

"The prediction was right, but that's not the point," the source said. "The secretary of transportation is not supposed to push a drowning man under, but to pull him out."

Mr. Skinner is a golfing buddy of Vice President Dan Quayle as well as Mr. Bush, and has been a vacation guest at the president's summer home in Malibu.

A native of Springfield, Illinois, Mr. Skinner majored in accounting at the University of Illinois and became a top salesman for International Business Machines Corp in Chicago. He won the company's "outstanding Salesman of the Year" award in 1967.

His first job, he once said, was selling programmes at a horse show at the age of 11. "I made six dollars, and I've been selling ever since," he said.

He earned a law degree in night school at DePaul University and joined the U.S. Attorney's Office in Chicago at a hefty pay out from his IBM salary.

He was appointed U.S. Attorney in Chicago in 1975 by then-President Gerald Ford and became known around town as "The Hammer" for his role in the indictments of crooked politicians.

Mr. Thompson later appointed Mr. Skinner as head of Chicago's Rail and Bus Regional Transportation Authority and still later as head of the state's Transportation Department.

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Arabs inject order to process

The following article was reprinted from the Dec. 5, 1991 issue of the Washington Times.

By Peter F. Sisk

EVILED a year ago as President Saddam Hussein's junior partner, Palestinians and Jordanians are finding a warm welcome in Washington where they are seen as a cooperative element in a orderly peace process. The shift among the Arabs who once stridently opposed American military intervention in the Gulf marks the ascendancy of pragmatism and an acknowledgment of the American role in ending their fate. Palestinian and Jordanian delegates to the peace conference said yesterday, "There is indeed a shift back to peaceful solution," said Mustafa-Natshe, a Palestinian delegate

from the West Bank. "The people were against interference by the United States, and they supported Saddam because they are under occupation. After the war we responded positively to the American initiative for peace, which we saw as a sincere attempt."

The delegates said their presence in Washington proves they are willing to accept U.S. terms for the peace process despite their concern about U.S. impartiality. They are upset with the Bush administration for not forcing Israel to the negotiating table yesterday, but they said the process is too important for it to end over one day.

The Israelis also are angry with the Bush administration, accusing it of attempting to force a Dec. 4 starting date on Israel without first consulting Tel Aviv.

"From the Palestinian point of view we have nothing to lose,"

said Taysir Aroui, a member of the Palestine National Council (PNC). "We know the Americans are not going to press for a Palestinian kind of settlement, but they know there can't be a peace conference without the Palestinians."

"If the Americans thought they could reach a settlement without the (Palestinian) delegation, I think they would try. This is purely a pragmatic policy we are taking."

The Palestinians and Jordanians reiterated the often repeated statements that their position on the Gulf was misinterpreted and distorted — that they never supported President Saddam Hussein's occupation of Kuwait, they just thought it was an internal Arab problem that could have been solved peacefully. Yet images of Palestinians cheering Iraqi Scud-missile attack on Israel and anti-American demonstrations in several Arab capitals prompted many analysts to predict dire political consequences for the Palestinians.

"We supported linkage between the Kuwaiti and Palestinian problems only because resolutions on Palestine had been ignored for years," said George Hawatmeh, editor of the Jordan Times, published in Amman, Jordan. "Once the Americans moved to exert serious pressure for a solution, well, that is what we were waiting for. In March, when Mr. Baker first came to the region, the Israelis criticised the Palestinians for meeting with him. They said the Americans were trying to solve the problem on their own terms, the same way they conducted the war," Mr. Hawatmeh said.

Despite misgivings about the conditions they had to meet for the first round of the conference in Madrid, Spain, the Palestinians

held the most successful round of negotiations with the Israelis of any delegation. That success, and its positive reception among residents of the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, reinforced moderate Palestine Liberation Organisation.

The delegation in Washington, although considerably smaller, is essentially unchanged from Madrid. It is led by moderates Haidar

Abdul Shafi from the Gaza Strip and spokeswoman Hanan Ashrawi.

Mrs. Ashrawi was less moderate yesterday as she denounced the Israelis for not showing up at

the State Department. She said in the lobby of the Grand Hotel that the Palestinians would stay in Washington "as long as we need to" and there was no excuse for the Israelis not to be here."

Arabs inject optimism over ties

(Continued from page 1)

Contrary to totally groundless. On the Middle East peace process, King Hussein said that Jordan was seeking the implementation of U.N. Security Council resolution 242 and 338 and an end to the Arab-Israeli conflict through peaceful means.

"I am optimistic that we are on the right track," he said.

The King stressed the importance of Arab Jerusalem to Arabs and Muslims and the need to restore it to Arab sovereignty, and added that the peace negotiations aim to achieve liberation for all occupied lands, including Arab Jerusalem.

"Yet we are still at the beginning of the road and I do not believe the way will be smooth or negotiations easy," he stressed. "The talks will take very long time and many efforts, but the light is on our side and it is hoped that the efforts will yield fruitful results."

Israeli absence, U.S. stand draw criticism

(Continued from page 1)

issued tough no-nonsense-from anyone statements prior to Dec. 4.

Furthermore, the administration's refusal on Thursday to set a new date for the talks was also viewed by analysts as a sign of American anxiety to appease Israel.

Two other major elements cited by the delegates were the enthusiasm with which the administration pledged to repeal the 1975 U.N. resolution equating Zionism with racism before the end of the current session of the General Assembly and the firm denial of entry to cameramen to the designated conference rooms at the State Department to photograph the empty Israeli chairs for media impact.

Dr. Nuseibeh, who favours U.N. Security Council auspices for the peace process, said that Israel's actions would not have been tolerated and accepted, but since the issue was merely a procedural one "Americans probably don't want to play into the hands of the Israelis and wreck the conference."

Yet Dr. Nuseibeh did not fail to criticise the American "soft response," calling it "ominous."

"The Americans have failed to show any resolve, especially on this minor procedural issue," he said.

But Mr. Khouri sees it differently. "The Americans are bending backwards so as not to offend any of the parties, and this is what is expected of them now," he said.

On the other hand, Mr. Hamarneh hoped that "the Americans are not backtracking."

"I would like to think that America has achieved something behind the scenes, because if the Americans decide to compromise now nothing will come out of the meetings and the Arabs will be in trouble," he said.

Dr. Nasir said that the American response "reflects hesitancy, fear, and failure."

"In Iraq, the United States did not hesitate to use its armed forces to implement U.N. resolutions, and now the U.S. is not showing that they are a superpower with a foreign policy plan that needs to be implemented," Dr. Nasir said.

Youssef Bouran, Jordan's former ambassador to France, said: "I don't expect from the Americans more than their present 'soft-line' approach regarding the Jews and Israel."

Libya stopped supporting IRA

(Continued from page 1)

owning the American plane to an Arab state."

Ms. Tariki said Libyan Supreme Court Judge Ahmad Zamawi, appointed to handle the case for Tripoli, had questioned two intelligence agents accused of the Pan Am bombing which killed 270 people.

Britain and the United States last week added new demands to their call for the two to be handed over. They said Tripoli must provide compensation for those killed and give details of its links to international terrorist groups. Libya has ruled out extradition of the suspects, saying instead it will abide by an Arab League

decision on Thursday to ask the United Nations to join it in studying the charges.

"It is not our problem now, I must be clear on this," Mr. Tariki said. "The matter is in the hands of Arab League Secretary General (Emat Abdul Maguid)."

He said Arab ambassadors to the U.N. in New York would also press for a joint Arab League-U.N. committee to be set up. "Two or three members of the United Nations have raised these allegations. We are all members of the U.N., we have a charter... we should accept that the U.N. does its work," he added.

"If they (the Americans and the British) are so sure of their evidence, why are they afraid of going to an international court?" asked Mr. Tariki.

Babil

(Continued from page 1)

are obviously watching closely.

United Nations officials say about 200,000 Kurds have fled Iraqi attacks in northern Iraq in recent weeks, straining the resources of relief teams trying to help a million uprooted people survive an icy winter. Iraqi forces crushed a Kurdish rebellion in the aftermath of the Gulf war earlier this year. Up to 10 million refugees fled towards Turkey and Iran. Western troops sealed safe havens for their return.

Iraq has reportedly imposed restrictions on Kurds.

Reconciliation

(Continued from page 1)

for a decade because of its separate peace agreement with Israel.

Iran, which boycotted the last OIC summit, has mounted a high-profile comeback in Dakar. But political analysts say although Tehran's relations with Arab neighbours are warming, many still doubt Iran has scrapped plans to export its fiery brand of Muslim fundamentalism.

IRNA said Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati urged colleagues at a meeting on Saturday to approve "active participation" in the OIC of Muslim republics in the rapidly disintegrating Soviet Union.

Arab-Israeli talks

(Continued from page 1)

and cited press reports saying Israel would be attending on the same date.

Asked about the duration of the second round of talks, which has been at the centre of dispute with the Israelis, Dr. Majali said: "We are staying until the end. There is no fixed number of sessions."

Sources close to the Israeli delegation said Tel Aviv was pushing to move the talks closer to the region after two sessions in Washington. But the sources also added that the Israeli government has left room for manoeuvre on extending the talks in Washington beyond Thursday.

The head of the Syrian delegation, Muwaffaq Al Alai, told reporters that the Arab delegations came to Washington to "discuss the implementation of resolutions and principles and the achievement of a specific goal in relation to Israel's withdrawal from the occupied territories."

Mr. Alai added that the Arab side was ready to deal with any Israeli proposal, but he rejected Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's hardline position on the peace negotiations.

"Shamir's opinions are unacceptable on all issues and are rejected as far as we are concerned," he said. "But we are not going to prevent what the Israelis may carry with them to the negotiating table."

Mr. Alai said that no issues of substance had yet been discussed, but that the Arab side "will insist on immediate engagement in substance."

Dr. Majali, however, said that there would be "a brief discussion on procedural issues before entering into issues of substance on Tuesday."

Washington's refusal to set a new date for the talks and its failure to strongly censure Israel for staying away from attending on the originally scheduled date had raised fears among Arab delegates that the U.S. might have been aiming at downgrading its active involvement in the peace process.

Israel had said it was ready to attend talks on Dec. 9, but the Arab delegates rejected the Israeli date,

which coincides with the fourth anniversary of the Palestinian intifada in the occupied territories.

Beyond the issue of the anniversary date, however, the Arabs wanted to make the point that they were not ready to accept the Israeli conditions for the resumption of the talks.

The leader of the Palestinian delegation, Dr. Haidar Abdul Shafi, said his team had total Arab backing for placing the issue of Israeli settlements on top of the agenda.

"Our Arab colleagues are supporting our demands for stopping illegal settlements," Dr. Abdul Shafi said. Lebanese chief negotiator Ambassador Saheel Shammam, referring to Israeli insistence that the talks be moved to another location, said the U.S. invitation stipulated undertaking "the next round" of talks in Washington without specifying the number of sessions involved.

"We will stay in Washington until substantive progress is achieved," Mr. Shammam stressed.

There were reports in the U.S. capital yesterday that the Israelis were still insisting on barring Palestinian delegate Dr. Saeb Erekat from attending the talks on Tuesday and beyond. Dr. Erekat, who is the Palestinian liaison officer with the Jordanian delegation, was vetoed and excluded by the Israelis from the first session of the bilateral talks in Madrid, because he had declared in a CNN interview, just before the Oct. 30 peace conference, that he was a representative of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

According to official Jordanian sources, there will be separate rooms for the Jordanian and Palestinian sides at the State Department Tuesday. "The Americans have made adequate arrangements for parallel talks between the Jordanians and Israelis and Palestinians and Israelis," one source said. "The Israelis have said they will not accept the arrangement, but they have to if they want the talks to take place."

"We are not prepared to agree to any other arrangement," according to the source.

George Hawatmeh, Narmeen Murad, Salameh Nazzari, Ghadeer Taher and Caroline Faraj contributed to this report.

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Samaranch says IOC could recognise Soviet republics

NE, Switzerland (R) Olympic chief Juan Antonio Samaranch reaffirmed Saturday that the IOC would not support a joint Soviet team for the Barcelona games, but would breakaway Soviet republics would gain Olympic recognition if they won international political acceptance.

"If any of these republics is recognised by the political world community, we have no problems accepting them as possible new NOC (National Olympic Committee)," Mr. Samaranch told a news conference.

The policy we are following is to follow the Soviet Union, as far as the Soviet Union is concerned, we will follow it with the Soviet Union."

Samaranch, president of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), said Friday that a two-year freeze on granting IOC recognition to new NOCs did not apply to the breakaway Yugoslav republics of Slovenia and Croatia.

If the two gained political recognition at an upcoming European Community (EC) summit in the Netherlands, it was still possible that Slovenia — an Alpine republic with a strong skiing tradition — could compete independently at February's Albertville winter games.

Mr. Samaranch is known to be keen to avoid the break-up of the powerful Soviet Olympic team and has invited the 12 Soviet republics to IOC headquarters to settle questions such as a new flag and emblem for a joint at Barcelona.

He added: "The only interest

we have is that as many athletes as possible from the Soviet Union come to Barcelona."

According to Marc Holder, president of the International Ski Federation (FIS), Slovenian athletes might compete in Albertville under the Olympic banner.

"We were considering using the Olympic flag instead of a flag that creates problems but no decision has been taken," Mr. Holder told the news conference.

The FIS was one of a number of winter sports federations that met the IOC's executive board Saturday morning ahead of the Albertville games.

The meeting heard progress reports by the organisers of both Albertville and the 1994 winter Olympics in Lillehammer, Norway.

Mr. Samaranch said a record 59 countries would take part in Albertville, two more than took part in Calgary, Canada in 1988.

But he said a new blood testing procedure to detect doping would not be introduced at the games.

The IOC executive board agreed in principle this week to introduce the new testing procedure after hearing from Koba Mbaye, an IOC vice president who had investigated the matter, that there would be no objections on religious, moral or human rights grounds.

The IOC says the athletes' commission has also agreed to the new tests, which will complement traditional urine tests.

But although IOC medical chief Prince Alexandre de Merode has said the tests could be introduced very quickly, Mr. Samaranch said their use at Albertville would be premature.

Meanwhile, the once all-powerful Soviet State Sports Committee, breaking up with the disintegration of the central state, has warned its liquidation could damage prospects for the mighty Soviet Olympic squads.

Leonid Drachevsky, deputy chairman of Goskomsport, told Soviet news agency TASS plans to overhaul the sports establishment could leave thousands of athletes and coaches without adequate financing ahead of the winter and summer games.

"The liquidation of our agency means a rupture in the existing ties and the destruction of the entire system of training for the winter and summer games," Mr. Drachevsky said Friday.

And he questioned whether the Soviet Olympic Committee, now taking charge of the teams, could handle the job.

Mr. Drachevsky's comments underlined simmering tensions inside the Soviet sports machine, as the bloated sports committee gives way to other, less-centralised bodies.

But he offered no evidence the Soviet teams — always among the

medal leaders — would not be present for the winter games in Albertville, France, or the summer contest at Barcelona.

Goskomsport, responsible in the past for Olympic preparations in cooperation with the Olympic committee, was ordered to disband by the present Soviet collective leadership.

Soviet Sports Federations, including those for athletics and ice hockey, have found themselves short of up to half the money they needed for full-scale preparation and, were now trying to raise money from sponsors.

However, the 12 republics have reaffirmed their plans to field full teams — at least for 1992.

Vitaly Smirnov, chairman of the Soviet National Olympic Committee, Thursday acknowledged financial troubles saying the team had enough funding for Albertville but needed about \$1 million more for Barcelona.

Despite the secessionist ambitions of some of the Soviet Union's 12 republics, Smirnov said the Soviet Union planned to send a record 800 competitors to Barcelona.

Sampras suffers another major tennis setback

ANTWERP (R) — Pete Sampras, whose defeat by Guy Forget handed the Davis Cup to France last weekend, suffered another reverse Friday.

The American lost 6-3 6-4 to unseeded Italian Omar Camporese in the quarterfinals of the \$1.1 million European Commu-

nity Championship. Sluggish Sampras repeatedly squandered easy chances and went down in just 52 minutes, to whistles from the disappointed crowd.

Camporese now meets another American, Aaron Krickstein, who beat eighth-seeded Swede Magnus Gustafsson 6-1 6-4 in other quarterfinal action.

The other semifinal is between the big two, Ivan Lendl and Boris Becker. Lendl beat an injured Forget 6-4 6-4, while the German disposed of Czechoslovak Petr Korda 7-6 6-2.

The 20-year-old Sampras, who said earlier he was to blame for the Americans' unexpected defeat by France in the Davis Cup, disappeared after the match, a tournament official said.

"He played so badly," said the 23-year-old Camporese. "It was not a nice match."

Second-seeded Becker clinched his semifinal slot with some superior serving which gave him the first-set tiebreak 7-3.

Then he overcame Korda's final resistance with a service break in the sixth game of the second set, passing the Czechoslovak with a scorching cross-court shot.

Korda, who lost his only previous match with Becker, said: "I didn't serve well, I didn't play well. I didn't have a good feeling for the ball today."

Davis Cup hero Forget was hampered by a sore knee, in his defeat by Lendl. "The knee didn't hurt a lot but I still feel it. I still have that little inflammation," said Forget. "I feel like I cannot run 100 per cent on some shots."

JORDAN SOCCER ROUNDUP

By Aleen Bannayan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Al Faisali has reached a step closer to capturing the No. 2 spot after beating Al Ahli in the match played Friday at Al Hussein Youth City Stadium in Amman.

Both teams needed the win to almost secure the runner up position after Al Wihdat convincingly claimed the top spot.

Al Ahli's goalkeeper Hassan Hmeidi put up a great effort as Al Faisali lost many scoring chances throughout the game.

Al Faisali's Milad Abbasi lost a penalty shot in the 54th minute, but Jamal Abu Abed secured his team's win when he scored the only goal of the match thus eliminating Al Ahli's hopes of being No. 2.

Meanwhile, Al Karmel kept their hopes alive of staying in the premier league when they beat Al Qadisiyah in the match played Friday at Al Hassan Sports City in Irbid.

Had Al Karmel lost they would have surely dropped alongside Al Jazireh and Al Jeel to the second division.

However, Al Karmel played with determination in quite a competitive match. Although the first half was scoreless, the second half was exciting and fast, as Al Karmel relentlessly attacked and Suleiman Fayez scored the first goal. But Al Qadisiyah's Ra'ad Al Momani quickly equalised in the 70th minute. Only three minutes later Al Karmel's Naser Abu Hadeed scored the second goal but Al Qadisiyah's Mazen Shaheen again equalised in 82nd minute.

Al Karmel's Majed Abu Serriyeh scored the decisive winning goal in the 88th minute. Al Karmel now need to beat Al Ramtha (provided Al Arabi loses to Al Qadisiyah, whereupon Al Karmel must beat Al Arabi) to stay in the first division.

In another match played Thursday in Amman, Al Arabi nearly secured their position in the premier division when they beat Al Jazireh 2-0.

Al Arabi's Ayman Al Omari scored the first goal from a header in the 29th minute, while Al Jazireh repeatedly tried to score the equalising goal to no avail and lost many scoring chances.

Al Arabi's Rakez Karasneh scored the second goal in the 63rd minute giving his team a precious win over Al Jazireh.

In the fourth match of the week, Al Wihdat suffered their first defeat Wednesday as Al Hussein scored a 2-1 victory.

After a series of disappointing results, Al Hussein played with an obvious determination to improve their record, denying Al Wihdat the chance of equalising Al Faisali's and Al Ahli's previous records of ending the season without a loss.

Al Hussein managed to stop Al Wihdat's strikers from scoring apart from Hisham Abdul Munem's goal in the 14th minute.

Al Hussein's equaliser came in the 18th minute when Kamal Al Kharouf scored. Al Hussein's Ihsan Ayyoub scored his team's winning goal in the 72nd minute, raising to 5 the number of goals scored against Al Wihdat.

Standings

After the 17th week

	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Al Wihdat	14	1	1	31	5	29
Al Faisali	12	1	4	29	13	25
Al Ahli	9	4	4	28	15	22
Al Ramtha	9	1	4	30	13	19
Al Qadisiyah	7	2	8	21	27	16
Al Hussein	6	4	6	27	21	16
Al Arabi	5	5	7	24	22	15
Al Karmel	6	1	10	20	38	13
Al Jazireh	2	2	13	13	26	6
Al Jeel	1	1	14	7	46	3

Red Star plans attack in world club title match

TOKYO (R) — Red Star Belgrade, who owed their European Cup success to good defence and penalty taking, plan all out attack against a Colo Colo side brimming with individual skill in the World Club Soccer Championship match Sunday.

"I have confidence in our players' skills and they also know that. We want to take the world title as well as the European Cup this year," Red Star coach Vladimir Popovic said.

"The players were really tired (before coming to Tokyo) because of a tight match schedule. But all have recovered their spirits," he said.

Red Star, the first Yugoslavian team to win the European Cup when they beat Marseille on penalties after a goalless final last May, hope to continue where AC Milan left off in the one-off world title match between the champions of Europe and South America.

South America have won the title seven times since the match

was first staged on neutral ground in Tokyo in 1980. They had a 7-2 record before Milan's successive triumphs in 1989 and 1990.

Red Star captain Dejan Savicevic is optimistic about the clash with Santiago club Colo Colo, the first Chilean side to win the South American Libertadores Cup Cup Championship when they beat holders Olimpia of Paraguay 3-0 in the final.

The midfielder said he put on his best performance in last month's European Super Cup match when he constantly deceived the Manchester United defence with his artistry and speed.

"I'm used to playing such big matches," said Savicevic, who shares scoring duties with Darko Pancev, Europe's top scorer last season with 35 goals.

Colo Colo's Yugoslavian coach Mirko Jozic, who guided the Chilean side to Libertadores Cup triumph only 14 months after joining them, said he was worried about two injured players.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANNAN HIRSCH
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THE LITTLEST FINESSE ON EARTH

Both vulnerable. North deals.
NORTH
♠ 10 9 2
♥ K 10 7 5
♦ A K
♣ A 10 5 2
WEST
♠ 8 7
♥ J 6 4
♦ J 7 6 2
♣ Q 9 6 4
EAST
♠ Q J 5 3
♥ 9
♦ K 10 9 4 3
♣ J 7 3
SOUTH
♠ A K 6 4
♥ A Q 8 3 2
♦ 8 6
♣ K 8
The bidding:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 ♣ Pass 6 ♣ Pass

Opening lead: Eight of ♠
All players are familiar with the standard finesses, those involving the king or queen of a suit. Of all the many hands we have seen involving a variety of finesses, this one is still our favorite. It was played many years ago by the late Albert H. Morehead, lexicographer par excellence and still one of the great play writers in the game's history. Among other things, it illustrates how a good player pays attention to all the spot cards as they fall.

451 my 1749

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY DECEMBER 8, 1991

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: There are some very good chances to make real headway toward unique and progressive aims by turning what seems to be a difficult situation tactfully to your own credit and advantage.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Be very careful on the highway or in motion for you are apt to have some accident which care can prevent and also do not make any bad comments.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You now have every sort of need to make sure that you do use economy in your approach at any practical or financial problems and listen to budget experts.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Whatever you would like to do that does require contact with other persons of a social or personal nature should be done with extreme tact.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Take some time now to look straight at those limiting conditions facing you and see what you can do to eliminate them tactfully.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) You now find you are the one who does need to be very careful not to make any comments to friends that could be misconstrued or that are criticism.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) You find it essential now that you use the utmost care to do

nothing that could take away from your good name and the image you have built up.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) You are eager to get off to new scenes and new surroundings but off all days this is not the time to do so or you find you lose where you mean the most.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) You now find that you are the one who does need to pay highly particular plan under which to attend to all obligations that need to be done.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Be willing to sit down at the peace table and talk out what you and your allies want together instead of acting in a purely self manner.

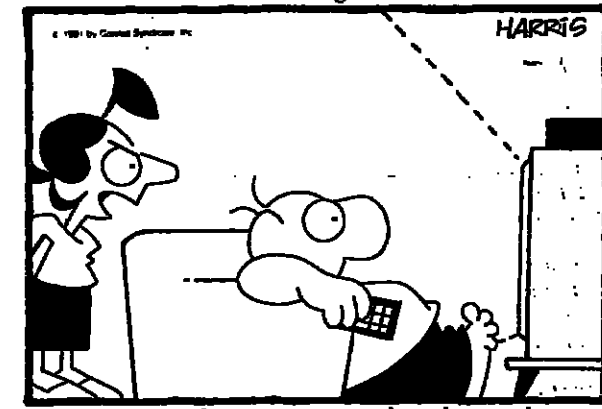
CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 19) Now you find you can have some pleasant moments if you go along with the tide of events and do not try to force matters to your way of doing.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Now you find you can have some pleasant moments if you go along with the tide of events and do not try to force matters to your way of doing.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Your own home is the center of some strain unless you realize that the planets are bringing some potential conflict and you maintain your cool.

THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris

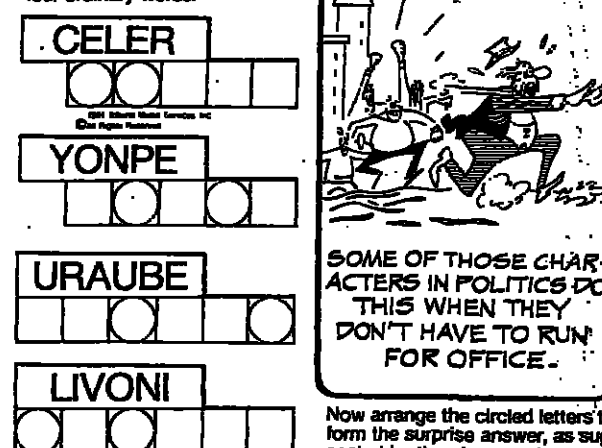


"It's me you're supposed to love, honor and obey — not the TV!"

JUMBLE.

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

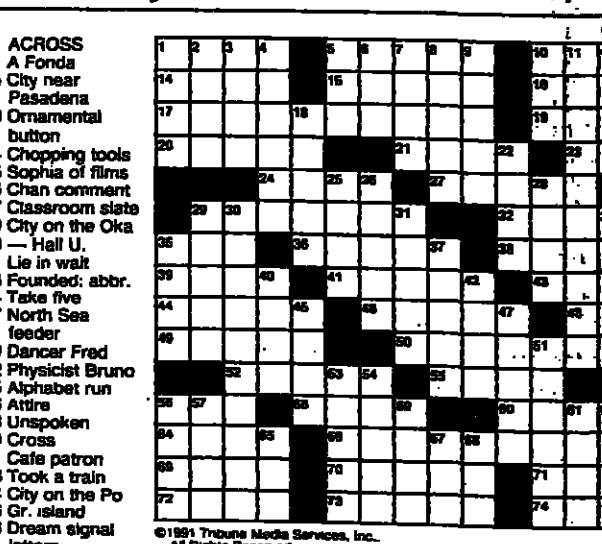


Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: FOR (Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumbles: COLIC THINK UPTOWN HERMIT
Answer: That shady character is worthless no matter how MUCH HE'S "WORTH"

THE Daily Crossword by Melvin Kammerer



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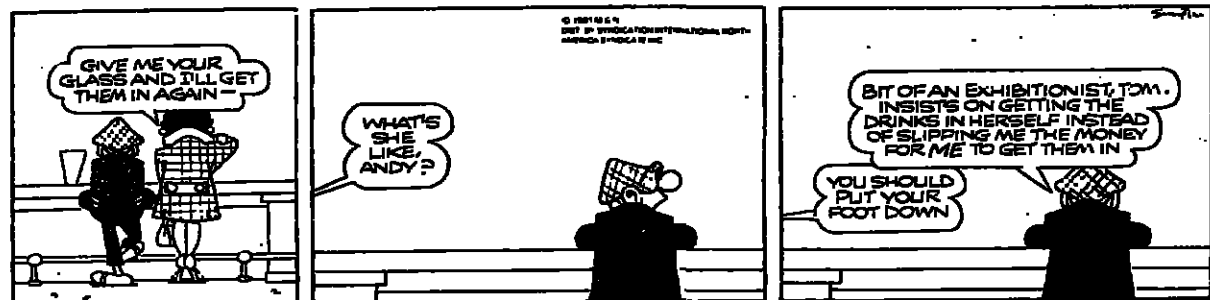
Across
1 A Florida
5 City near Pasadena
10 Ornamental button
14 Chopping tools
15 Sophie of films
16 Chan comment
17 Classroom state
19 City on the Oklahoma
20 — Hall U.
21 Lie in wait
23 Founded: abbr.
24 Tote five
27 North Sea feeder
29 Dancer Fred
32 Physicist Bruno
35 Alphabet run
36 Attire
38 Unspoken
39 —
41 Calf patron
43 Took a train
44 City on the Po
45 Gr. island
48 Dream signal letters
49 Girl in a pool?
50 Fried quickly
52 Gr. letters
55 Pay attention
56 "Vlad"
58 — well that—
60 Nautical call
64 — Bator
66 They shine shoes
69 Regarding
70 — point (just so far)
71 Partisan of "Cheers"
72 Miami's county
73 Feline remarks
74 Sasin

Down
1 Pokes
2 Spindle
3 Undiluted
4 Social companion
5 Frantically
6 Menagerie
7 USSR river
8 Anthrocin
9 Conductor
10 — Paulo
11 —
12 Employ
13 Thickwit
15 Prepare dough
16 Westmen
19 Royal address
20 Stairway part
21 Fly high
22 Approximately
30 Balpark adjust
31 — Park, Colo.
32 Agreed (with)
34 Small news bit
35 B.A. word
37 Word in the Psalm
40 Eat formally
42 Reels
45 — chance!
47 Puriton
51 Composer
52 Grieg
53 Photo book
54 Ramp
55 — pro quo
57 Foreman's
59 — speak
61 Yearn
62 Use
63 Fore of
65 Bom
67 Full
68 —

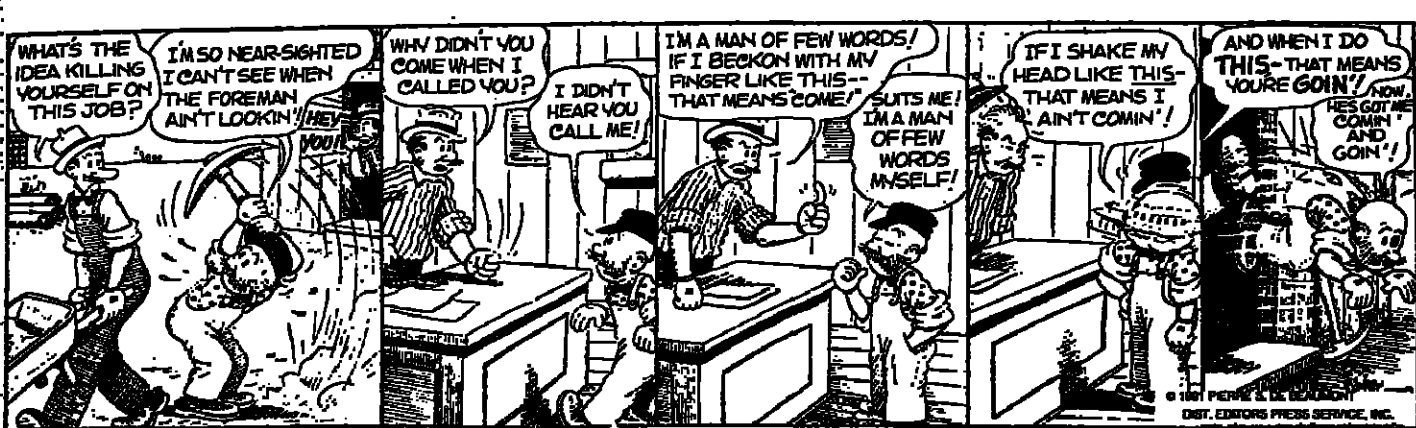
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Poland's new premier warns of further tightening of belts

WARSAW (R) — Former Solidarity lawyer Jan Olszewski was named Poland's prime minister Friday and immediately warned that the country might have to be tight-lipped with little sign of the recession easing.

"The economic situation is such that no government may expect on quick or easy success, possibly on any success for a long time," Mr. Olszewski said. "We may have to appeal to society for further sacrifices."

Mr. Olszewski was reluctantly nominated by President Lech Walesa, who said he doubted whether the new premier was fit to conduct a coherent economic policy.

"I am aware how dramatic is the economic situation of the country and how difficult are the tasks that this government faces," he said before the vote. "This task will be a bed of thorns for any prime minister."

Tough policies pursued by the first two Solidarity governments since January 1990 paved the way towards a free-market economy and stopped spiralling inflation. But they have also caused a severe industrial slump and two million unemployed.

Four of the five parties in the Olszewski coalition campaigned directly in the election against the outgoing government's economic

policies. Critics charge however that it has failed to come up with a programme of its own.

Immediately after nominating Mr. Olszewski Thursday, Mr. Walesa questioned the ability of any government he forms to cope with economic problems.

"The gentlemen who will sit in this government will not have the slightest idea about possibilities or programmes," Mr. Walesa said.

Mr. Olszewski told the Sejm he would form a government of experts irrespective of the relative strengths of the various political parties.

President Walesa Friday nominated a little known woman lawyer to head Poland's central bank, prompting banking specialists to ask if he was sending the right signal to the financial community at home and abroad.

Hanna Gronkiewicz-Waltz, a Warsaw university specialist in banking law, was named to replace Grzegorz Wroblewski, who was dismissed in August for alleged negligence and is under investigation in Poland's biggest financial scandal.

The national daily Rzeczpospolita said the nomination, which must be approved by parliament, failed to give an expected assurance that the National Bank of Poland would stick to tight

monetary policies following October's parliamentary elections.

Mr. Walesa wants to continue with monetarist policies which have the approval of the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

But Mr. Olszewski is a critic of the economic programme of the past two years. He says Poland must ease austerity to fight recession and renegotiate its IMF deal.

Rzeczpospolita questioned whether Ms. Gronkiewicz-Waltz, who is believed to be aged about 40, was the right person to keep the central bank on course in such circumstances.

It said she was a respected specialist but had no practical banking experience and was unknown in the banking world.

Andrzej Wroblewski, editor of the Warsaw banking newspaper Gazeta Bankowa, said he had not heard of Ms. Gronkiewicz-Waltz.

Piotr Aleksandrowicz, deputy editor of Rzeczpospolita, said Mr. Walesa would have reassured the financial world that Poland was staying on course if he nominated "a person giving from the start a guarantee of running a tough monetary policy and proper management of the central bank."

He said nomination of well-known monetarists like outgoing

finance minister Leszek Balcerowicz or his former deputy, Marek Dabrowski, would have sent out the necessary signal.

"The candidacy of Ms. Gronkiewicz-Waltz, doubtless a person of the highest qualifications in banking law but little known for her work in state structures, is not such an expected signal," Mr. Aleksandrowicz said.

Mr. Dabrowski was Mr. Walesa's first choice for the central bank post but the previous parliament rejected him in September.

Mr. Aleksandrowicz said, however, that there was no reason to exclude the possibility that Ms. Gronkiewicz-Waltz could turn out to be a monetarist and a person capable of imposing monetarist policy on the Polish banking system.

He said she had advised Ms. Walesa on matters concerning a new banking law that was approved by the previous parliament but which he refused last month to sign into law.

Poland's banking system has been in confusion since August, hit by a series of scandals.

The central bank presidency has been vacant since Aug. 9 when Mr. Wojtowicz was suspended on suspicion of negligence in a \$380 million banking



Lech Walesa

and financial scandal.

Mr. Wojtowicz was arrested and held for two months. He was freed last month but a prosecutor said there was enough evidence to put him on trial for allegedly failing to intervene to prevent two businessmen from skimming huge sums of money out of Poland's fledgling banking system.

The two businessmen, Boguslaw Babski and Janusz Gasiorowski, fled to Israel in July. Seven other senior bankers have been held in the case and the central bank has been run by Deputy President Andrzej Topinski since August.

Poland has also been without a chief debt negotiator since August when deputy finance minister Janusz Sawicki was dismissed in a scandal involving up to \$177 million.

900 march on world body compound U.N. staff demand higher pay, fair pension scheme and better career prospects

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Carrying banners and wearing yellow stickers, hundreds of U.N. employees from all over the world marched on the compound Friday protesting at low wages and lack of career opportunities and collective bargaining rights.

A spokesman for the usually subdued international civil servants said he estimated about 900 U.N. staff from other offices overseas and Canada and Washington joined the protests, marking a new militancy in the world body.

Staffers at a mass meeting adopted a resolution which they gave to Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar demanding higher wages, improved bargaining, a fair pension scheme and career planning for the 52,000 employees in the head office and various agencies.

The Federation of International Civil Servants' Associations

and other unions representing the employees to popular belief a great many staff were underpaid.

The U.N. General Assembly, it said, was taking advantage of public opinion which in recent years had credited the U.N. with "superhuman qualities" and had added programme after programme without sufficient staff to carry them out.

"They can't even find enough people to go to Cambodia," for the next planned peacekeeping operations, said Edward Freeman, an American who is head of the federation. The protesters Friday wore stickers with a maze on them to symbolise the United Nations' bureaucracy.

The staff demands run head-on into pressure from the United States and other nations to trim jobs, particularly in the upper ranks.

At the same time, the United Nations is \$523.1 million in

arrears, of which the United States owes \$355.5 million in regular dues.

A middle-ranking professional at the New York headquarters earns about \$43,000 a year after deductions, and a secretary's take home pay is about \$20,000 a year.

Ronald Hewson of Britain, president of the coordinating committee of all the unions, admitted some reports of well-paid bureaucrats doing little were true. But he said much of this occurred because of a governments insistence on posts for their nationals regardless of merit.

Mr. Freeman said the differentials in salaries compared to many posts in national governments prevented the United Nations from filling numerous jobs. Consequently several nations, including the United States, Canada and Germany subsidised some of their nationals working for the United Nations.

Bush administration weighing tax relief for middle class

WASHINGTON (R) — U.S. administration officials have said they are considering tax relief for America's middle class as a way of jump-starting the sputtering economy.

White House Budget Director Richard Darman told a congressional panel the administration is interested in cutting income taxes — but in a way that would not harm financial markets.

"We are interested in additional relief for the middle class," Mr. Darman told the House of Representatives Ways and Means Committee, which is considering ways to strengthen the recovery. The committee has jurisdiction over tax matters.

Mr. Darman's comments came as the U.S. government reported yet more mixed economic news.

The Commerce Department reported that a surge in demand for defence goods pushed factory orders 1.9 per cent higher in October, following declines in September and August of 2.3 per cent and 2.0 per cent, respectively.

But the number of Americans on the dole swelled ominously in a more recent period. The Labour Department said new applications for unemployment benefits shot up by 57,000 in the week that ended Nov. 23.

Mr. Darman said tax relief would have to "fit in a framework that can assure we are preserving budgetary discipline."

He said he is looking into options as directed by President George Bush. The budget director appeared before the panel with Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady and Michael Boskin, chair-

man of the Council of Economic Advisers.

Mr. Bush will present his proposals in the state of the union speech in January.

Committee chairman Dan Rostenkowski urged lawmakers to avoid a "bidding war" over tax cuts.

"We do not want to start a new bidding war like the one in 1981 that created so many of today's problems," the Illinois Democrat said at the start of the hearings.

"The economy is weak and is in trouble," he said. "A double-dip recession remains a possibility."

"The country is tired of bickering here in Washington," Mr. Rostenkowski said.

Mr. Brady, in his testimony, said early estimates indicate the economy is slowing in the fourth quarter but added that such a slide was not an unusual pattern for recoveries.

Saying that Congress should enact Mr. Bush's economic growth package, Mr. Brady said the core elements of the programme the president has sought for the past three years had not varied.

They include a cut in the capital-gains tax, permanent research and development tax incentives and incentives for first-time home ownership, savings and job creation.

Opponents of reducing the tax on capital gains from the sale of investments such as real estate or securities argue that it mainly helps the rich.

In his testimony, Mr. Darman said America's short-term problem is "getting the economy out of its sputtering condition."

Although the recession has been less deep than other American recessions, it had been widely evident geographically, and more "white collar" or "middle class" in its character.

The recession hit the middle class hard because it involved housing, services and the financial sector. Mr. Darman said that even without enactment of the president's plan, there has been some improvement already in those areas, but that the Bush plan would accelerate it.

The U.S. economy received another dose of bad news Friday with nearly a quarter of a million jobs reported lost last month and economists now predicting little chance of a full-fledged recovery until the middle of next year.

"It is unambiguous evidence that the recession is continuing," said economist Bruce Steinberg of Merrill Lynch Co. in New York.

Fed Chairman Alan Greenspan, speaking to securities industry executives meeting in Boca Raton, Florida, delivered his most pessimistic comments on the recovery so far.

"The economic recovery, which seemed to be gathering momentum and spark during the summer, more recently has shown signs of faltering," Mr. Greenspan said.

"This is a very disturbing employment report," said economist Allen Sinai of the Boston Co. a financial investment firm. "It signifies a significant deterioration in the economy in the fourth quarter."

Mr. Sinai and other economists said they now see little chance for a sustained recovery before the middle of next year, even if interest rates continue to drift downward.

"There are no encouraging signs in the numbers," said economist Rudy Oswald of the AFL-CIO, an umbrella group of labour unions. "You have declines in practically every sector of the economy."

The loss of 241,000 non-farm jobs last month far exceeded most economists' forecasts of a drop of 31,000.

Shortly after the Labour Department report, the Fed nudged down the key federal funds rate by a quarter-point to 4.50 per cent — the lowest level in 19

recovery until the middle of next year.

"The rate is the amount banks charge one another for short-term loans and can influence rates for consumers and businesses."

The central bank has been steadily easing credit since mid-1989, but the rate cuts could not stave off the recession that began a year later. Some economists believe cheaper credit encourages business activity.

Economists said the unemployment rate would have been seven per cent if the department's household survey had counted the people who apparently gave up looking for work last month.

The jobless rate measures job seekers as a percentage of the entire labour force, which includes only those with jobs and those looking for work.

Since March, the jobless rate has fluctuated only slightly, largely because the labour force grew by only 575,000 people in the past year instead of the two million per year average of the 1980s, the department said.

"This slow growth has reduced upward pressure on the unemployment rate," Bureau of Labour Statistics Commissioner Janet Norwood said.



Richard Darman

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Greek government takes aim at tax evaders

ATHENS (R) — The Greek government, gunning for the country's legion of tax evaders, plans to audit at least half of all doctors, lawyers and self-employed businessmen in 1992, Finance Minister Ioannis Paliokrassas has said.

Despite vows to stamp out tax fraud which deprives Greece's cash-strapped government of billions of dollars in revenue each year, the practice is widespread and growing, he told a business conference.

His crusade made some inroads in 1991. The few groups which both to file tax returns reported a sudden 40 per cent rise in income as tax inspectors and newly-installed computers bore down.

"There's been no comparable increase in years, if there ever was one," he told a two-day conference organised by the American Hellenic Chamber of Commerce and Business International.

Despite his efforts, the forecast for budget revenue from taxes in 1991 fell short by 200 billion drachmas (\$1.14 billion) — five per cent below target.

Greece's largest customs office will be fully computerised by the end of this month and the 120 largest tax offices by next May. The capacity of the mainframe computer at the finance ministry has been substantially extended.

The booming black economy which escapes the taxman's net equals more than 40 per cent of Greece's official annual output of goods and services, or gross domestic product, estimated at around \$70 billion in 1991.

Six republics join Russia in price rises

MOSCOW (R) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin said Friday his giant republic would free prices on most foods and commodities on Dec. 16 and six other republics appeared ready to do the same, TASS news agency said.

TASS said Mr. Yeltsin announced he would go ahead with the planned price rises, despite earlier pleas from other republics to delay the move.

Leaders of six other republics later agreed with Russia on a list of goods and commodities with an upper ceiling price, to take effect by Jan. 1, as a prelude to freeing other prices, TASS said.

They also agreed to coordinate their own economic reforms with those of Russia, by far the biggest and richest of the republics.

Further delays in liberalising prices, a key element in Russia's ambitious economic reform plan, had seemed sure to increase the uncertainty and chaos surrounding the crumbling economy.

"In December, Russia faces historic events, the transition to a market economy with all the consequences — privatisation, issuing of shares, changes in taxation and the financial system, liberalisation of foreign economic activity and prices," TASS quoted Mr. Yeltsin as telling reporters.

"Liberalisation of prices will start on Dec. 16," he said after signing a cooperation accord and a protocol on establishing diplomatic relations with visiting Hungarian Prime Minister Jozsef Antall.

TASS said the leaders of six other republics — Armenia, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan — later joined Russia in assigning ceiling prices to a list of basic goods and commodities.

Leaders of the republics had urged Russia to postpone the freeing of prices, warning that the Soviet state bank might be unable to provide enough cash to meet demand as prices, salaries and welfare payments rose.

The Russian parliament adopted a taxation law Friday

setting up a value added tax of 28 per cent to be levied on the cost of goods rather than on the level of production or sales as at present.

The law, an integral part of price reform, aimed to prevent the collapse of the republic's finances as prices rose.

The quick liberalisation of Russian prices could make its shops practically off-limits for people from other republics and induce Russians to cross borders in search of cheaper goods.

Producers in other republics could aim to sell their goods in Russia at higher prices than in their own.

Russian authorities have said they would like prices to be freed simultaneously in all or most of the republics but made clear they were prepared to press ahead on their own.

Many former and present republics, including the powerful Ukraine, say they will introduce their own currencies and Russia warned it would do the same to protect its economy from an influx of rubles.

Meanwhile, Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, warning of possible unrest, urgently asked republican leaders Friday to help relieve food shortages in Moscow by delivering promised supplies.

TASS news agency said Mr. Gorbachev told the leaders of Ukraine, Byelorussia, Kazakhstan and Moldova that the capital had only a few days' supplies left of meat, sugar, and vegetable and animal fats. Demand for bread had surged.

"On the eve of a decisive move to the free market and liberalising of prices, such a situation carries the danger of mass protests against the democratic reforms which are being introduced," he said in a telegram.

Mr. Gorbachev said food shortages could raise social and political tension. He asked the four leaders "to do everything possible to secure immediate shipment to Moscow of food products covered by food agreements for 1991-92."

Japanese favour investing in France

PARIS (R) — Japan, faced with an aging workforce that balks at doing manual labour, is keen to invest in France's well-trained and under-used labour force, a representative of Japan's employers association has said.

Minoru Inouye, speaking for members of the Keidanren em-

ployers group, said France's workforce was attractive to Japan both for its quality and its quantity and because France is in the heart of Europe.

"Japanese industrialists are interested in exporting from France," Mr. Inouye told a news conference.

Japan, he said, was worried by the aging of its population and because "the Japanese are less and less willing to do jobs that dirty one's hands."

Japanese investors are especially interested in consumer electronics and high technology. "A Franco-Japanese agreement on

research and development in space must be reached," he said.

However, he said Japan's car industry did not think it necessary to set down roots in France.

Jacques Calvet, head of French carmaker Peugeot S.A., has criticised a Japan-European Community car accord.

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Yeltsin: Gorbachev's vision of new union is bound to fail

MINSK, Soviet Union (R) — Russian leader Boris Yeltsin said Saturday the remaining Soviet republics should give up attempts to form a new confederation and aim instead for a "commonwealth" of independent states.

Speaking to the Byelorussian parliament, Mr. Yeltsin made clear he saw no future in President Mikhail Gorbachev's attempts to negotiate a new treaty for a Union of Sovereign States.

"The participants in the talks are becoming fewer and fewer. If it continues like this there will be nobody around the table at all," he said.

Mr. Yeltsin said the remaining Soviet republics still had common interests and added: "This is a sufficient basis for a Commonwealth of our states."

The Russian leader was to meet Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk, who has already refused to sign Mr. Gorbachev's treaty and called instead for a commonwealth of states modelled on the European Community.

Mr. Gorbachev is insisting the new grouping must itself remain a state in some form or other.

The failure of the remaining republics to endorse his vision would leave the once-all powerful leader with no real job.

Mr. Yeltsin said Russia would this weekend propose its own alternative plan but gave no details. "I think we have to look at four or five alternatives."

However, he implied Mr. Gorbachev's project for a treaty was now dead.

"One of the most difficult questions is the future of the huge country in which we were born. The attempt to revive the USSR in its Leninist interpretation has passed into history," Mr. Yeltsin said.

"The republics have refused to voluntarily delegate to the centre the powers which it has demanded of them. Today we see the failure of the idea of a half-federation, half-confederation which would bind each state implicitly under a system of dual power."

Mr. Yeltsin warned that any attempt to preserve the centre in new forms could lead to "the rebirth of the system which has already led us into a blind alley for more than 70 years."

"The main thing is not to demand the impossible from each other at this moment. If we do otherwise, any treaty, however correct, may turn into just a piece of paper."

At no point did Mr. Yeltsin mention Mr. Gorbachev, who was not invited to the weekend talks among the leaders of the three Slavic republics and hold much economic power.

The summit at a country house near the frontier city of Brest will take place behind closed doors and will continue Sunday.

On Monday the three leaders, joined by Kazakhstan President Nursultan Nazarbayev, will meet

Mr. Gorbachev in Moscow for talks which are likely to decide the fate of his plan for a new "Union of Sovereign States."

Mr. Yeltsin, whose Russian Federation has already snatched much of the Kremlin's former power, is clearly the dominant figure within the Slavic group.

On Friday he announced the freeing of prices on most foods and commodities from Dec. 16, forcing at least six hesitant republics to agree at a special meeting to a similar if slower course.

"The danger of destruction of economic space and economic union enabled us to find acceptable decisions on the most complicated issues," Soviet Prime Minister Ivan Silayev explained after the session.

The leaders met against a backdrop of crumbling food supplies and simmering unrest.

Mr. Gorbachev appealed to republican leaders for urgent food deliveries to Moscow city order to head off social disturbances. Authorities a wave of food thefts.

Mr. Yeltsin said many complex problems would arise if Ukraine were to be left out of the new commonwealth. "We would end up on opposite sides of the barricades," he said.

"It (Ukraine) is a very powerful state and without it, not only the shape of the commonwealth would change but also the balance of interests and economic possibilities."

Mr. Yeltsin predicted the

weekend talks would find a solution. "These will be really historic days. I am convinced that in the new situation we must not panic or give in to despair."

Ukraine, the Soviet Union's second most important republic after Russia, last weekend voted overwhelmingly for independence.

Meanwhile, breakaway Moldova called Friday for United Nations help against Soviet army units which it accused of launching a coup and trying to establish a military dictatorship.

Leaders of the small southwestern republic, which declared independence from Moscow in August, said the Soviet troops had "occupied" areas populated by ethnic Russians and distributed hundreds of weapons to extremists.

"The independence, integrity and even the life of Moldova's citizens are threatened," they said in an appeal broadcast on Romanian Radio.

"Developments over the past few days show that a fascist military-political putsch has started against the Moldova Republic, which could have tragic consequences also for neighbouring states."

President Mircea Snegur, Prime Minister Valeriu Muravich and parliamentary speaker Alexander Moesanu called on the U.N. Security Council to send observers to the republic, which borders Romania.

Mandela sees U.S. investment after apartheid

PITTSBURGH (R) — African National Congress (ANC) leader Nelson Mandela has said that U.S. business leaders have been receptive to his requests for investment in a post-apartheid South Africa.

"I can say, as a general comment, that the response of the business community has been positive," he told a news conference after a speech at the University of Pittsburgh.

"As a result of the discussions that were held, we are certain that our message has been well received," he said.

Mr. Mandela, who visited the United Nations earlier in the week and the White House Thursday, is on a week-long tour of the United States to promote investment in a post-apartheid South Africa.

"Contrary to what you might have heard or read, let me assure you that the ANC is not an enemy of private enterprise or the market system," he said in a speech outlining what he called a South African economy in decline and describing the ANC's vision of its marketplace in the future.

"We are determined to create the necessary climate which the foreign investor will find attractive," he said.

But Mandela urged that economic sanctions against South Africa be continued until an interim, non-racial government is in place, which he said would take "a matter of months."

The United States lifted its sanctions against South Africa this summer.

In Oslo, Archbishop Desmond Tutu said Friday he believed it would take at least a year to conclude negotiations on introducing democracy to South Africa.

"If we are being realistic, we should say we give the negotiation process at least a year," said Arch. Tutu, head of the Anglican Church in South Africa and a leading anti-apartheid campaigner.

Arch. Tutu was speaking to reporters at a symposium marking the 90th anniversary of the Nobel Peace Prize in Oslo. He won the award in 1984.

The African National Congress (ANC) and other anti-apartheid groups will hold full-scale constitutional talks with the white-led South African government on Dec. 20 and 21.

France sends food and medicine to Dubrovnik

PARIS (R) — A French boat carrying food and medical supplies for Yugoslavia set off Saturday for the embattled Adriatic city of Dubrovnik, the Defence Ministry said.

The ministry said the navy medical support ship the Rance, which left from the Italian port of Ancona, was still waiting for the warring parties to authorise the aid delivery to Dubrovnik, which came under heavy attack Friday.

"The Rance will reach international waters off the Yugoslav coast Sunday, ready to go to Dubrovnik on condition that the different parties, which have been asked for authorisation, give their permission," the ministry said in a statement.

Meanwhile, fighting eased in breakaway Croatia Saturday as the Yugoslav army promised to investigate Friday's attack on the Adriatic port of Dubrovnik, which shattered a two-week-old ceasefire.

United Nations envoy Cyrus Vance pushed ahead with his peace mission and planned to meet Serbian and army leaders, despite signs that his efforts to arrange for the dispatch of peacekeeping troops to Yugoslavia may be collapsing.

Dubrovnik and the eastern city of Osijek came under sustained attack Friday and battles raged in many areas.

But Croatian radio said fighting died down by nightfall and most battlefields were quiet Saturday morning.

The radio said 18 people were killed and 60 were injured in

Dubrovnik in Friday's attack, which a spokesman for European Community monitors in Croatia said came from the land and sea.

He said the EC mission had lodged a protest with the army and the military would investigate the attack.

"The JNA (Yugoslav army) promised a full investigation later. A statement of regret and apparent intent to discipline certain people was received from the JNA," spokesman Ed Koestel said.

He said EC monitors hoped to hold talks with the army in the Adriatic town of Cavtat Saturday to try to reinforce a local ceasefire around Dubrovnik, which is blockaded by the federal army and navy.

Friday's fighting was the worst for several weeks in a conflict which has killed thousands of people since Croatia declared independence from Yugoslavia in June and its Serbian minority took up arms in rebellion.

It said at least 10 buildings had burned to the ground in the city's walled old town, leaving just their charred frames, and the nearby Libertas Hotel was destroyed.

In Washington, State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler said the United States would halt trading under a generalised system of preferences, U.S. assistance programmes and a bilateral textile agreement.

She said Friday night that sanctions applied to all six republics, unlike the European Community which has singled out Serbia and its ally Montenegro.

2 U.K. trains collide in tunnel

LONDON (R) — Two passenger trains collided on Saturday in a tunnel connecting south west England and Wales and police said a number of people had been injured.

British Transport Police said a train travelling from the southern city of Portsmouth to the Welsh

capital Cardiff crashed into a stationary train in the tunnel at about 10.45 a.m.

"There are an unknown number of casualties. We have no other details at present," a fire brigade spokesman said.

The stationary train was reported to be travelling from Lon-

don to Cardiff.

Ambulance service spokesman Nick Woolf said he believed about 150 people were injured, three seriously.

It was too early to say if there were any dead among the passengers, he added.

Bush signs defence bill

ONTARIO (R) — President George Bush has signed into law the defence authorisation bill for 1992-93 despite reservations about certain provisions, including curbs on shifting a U.S. F-15 fighter base from Spain to Italy.

Mr. Bush also expressed reservations about other parts of the bill relating to defence cost-sharing with other nations, restrictions on nuclear missile deployment and troop levels in Europe.

In a signing statement released by the White House during a presidential stopover here, Mr. Bush said that while the measure "generally supports" his defence priorities, some provisions appeared to usurp his power to conduct foreign policy and thus raised "serious constitutional issues."

He said he would regard these provisions — including one that would restrict his ability to relocate a North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) fighter wing base from Spain to Crete, Italy — as advisory rather than binding.

President Bush has lifted a 30-year-old ban on U.S. arms sales to Poland, Hungary and Czechoslovakia, clearing the way for them to buy American defence equipment.

The White House released a set of presidential findings that provide a legal basis for lifting the cold war-era arms boycott on the Eastern European countries. The ban was imposed in a 1961 foreign aid act.

But during the three and a half years that EC states have taken to negotiate far-reaching internal changes, the Europe around them has been transformed beyond recognition.

Germany is united, communism has been swept away in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union itself is effectively dead.

The shockwaves from those earthquakes have given added impetus to the EC's forward march.

But essentially, it has followed a path mapped out almost 40 years earlier by the founding fathers, a project conceived in the ruins of World War II, executed during the cold war and designed to make war between the nations of Europe unthinkable.

The plan has not been revised in the light of events. Its supporters have simply argued that the changes in Europe have made it all the more necessary to com-

Thai army keeps powerful role in new constitution

BANGKOK (R) — Thailand's army-appointed National Assembly approved a constitution for the country Saturday that gives the military a strong say over who will govern after elections.

"I am happy now," Interim Prime Minister Anand Panyarachun said. "The constitution has been approved and the government is ready to hold elections, which I expect to be in the latter part of March."

Mr. Anand had criticised earlier drafts that gave a senate appointed by the junta wider powers than those in the measure passed Saturday. The vote was 262 for, seven against and four abstentions. Fifteen members were absent.

The military ousted the elected government of Mr. Chatichai Choonhavan in February in a bloodless coup, accusing him of corruption and operating a par-

liamentary dictatorship.

"The National Peacekeeping Council (NPKC), as the junta calls itself, won the right in Saturday's vote to appoint a senate of 270 members who will be able to vote on confidence measures that could oust an elected government."

There will be 360 elected members of parliament.

Opponents of the constitution say that because of the fractions of Thai party politics the appointed senate could easily ally itself with a small minority of elected legislators to depose a majority government.

Opposition politicians and student activists had planned mass demonstrations to demand that the proposed constitution be rejected. They cancelled them after King Bhumibol Adulyadej, a deeply-revered figure, called for national unity to avoid bloodshed.

Romania holds referendum on new constitution

BUCHAREST (R) — Romanians vote Sunday in a referendum on their first democratic constitution after four decades of Communist dictatorship which establishes the country as a multi-party presidential republic with a market economy.

Parliament adopted the constitution last month and called for popular endorsement of the document underpinning "the rule of law in a social and democratic state where human rights and political pluralism are ensured."

If approved, the new basic law will replace an interim constitutional arrangement which has been in force since Communist rule ended in a bloody December 1989 revolution in which dictator Nicolae Ceausescu was ousted and shot.

The referendum asks Romania's 16 million voters simply to accept or reject the republican constitution.

Opposition royalists say it should ask them whether they want to restore the monarchy, abolished under Communist rule, and are urging Romanians to boycott the poll.

"This is only a pretext to justify the establishment of a republic, which was imposed on us by Communists," National Peasant Party (NPP) leader Corneliu Coposu said.

Romania was ruled by a constitutional monarchy served by coalition governments until Soviet-backed Communists deposed and exiled King Michael in 1947.

"I am convinced that each of you will act according to his own conscience," the former monarch, who lives in exile in Switzerland, was quoted as saying in a message broadcast on state radio Friday.

The country's other major opposition parties, the Liberals and the Hungarian Democratic Union, voted against the constitution in parliament but have not joined the royalist call to boycott the referendum.

Critics say the constitution vests too much powers in the office of president, currently held by Ion Iliescu, a former Communist, while ethnic Hungarians, around 10 per cent of Romania's population, say they feel threatened by Romanian nationalism.

In a public appeal Mr. Iliescu urged Romanians to exercise their voting rights at the referendum.

Senator Kennedy testifies at nephew's rape trial

WEST PALM BEACH, Florida (R) — U.S. Senator Edward Kennedy testified Friday that he heard no screams and did not notice anything unusual the night a woman says his nephew William Kennedy Smith raped her at the Kennedy estate.

Lawyers independent of the case said Sen. Kennedy, called along with his son Patrick as prosecution witnesses in Mr. Smith's rape trial, appeared to have helped the defence because the alleged victim said she screamed for help in an area of the estate not far from the senator's bedroom window.

"Did you hear any screams?" prosecutor Moira Lasch asked the senator.

"No I did not," he said in a firm voice.

"Did you hear any noises at all within the house yourself?"

"No I did not," he replied.

His bedroom faces the pool and since the house has no air-conditioning his window was open. The woman said she was raped near the pool.

Mr. Smith's eyes welled with tears as his uncle testified about his father, the late lawyer Stephen Smith, whom Sen. Kennedy said was as close to him as a brother.

A single tear rolled down Mr. Smith's left cheek when Sen. Kennedy said, "when Steve was gone, something left all of us."

Sen. Kennedy also said he wished he had gone "for a long walk on the beach" that night

instead of taking Mr. Smith and Mrs. Patrick Kennedy to Au Bar, the nightclub where Mr. Smith met the woman who accuses him of raping her.

Lawyers who watched the testimony said they wondered why prosecutor Moira Lasch put Sen. Kennedy on the stand — especially when her case had so much momentum after the alleged rape victim testified through tears for 10 riveting hours, without wavering once from her story.

"She had the ball rolling pretty good for her, after the victim testified but she lost her momentum by putting Ted Kennedy on the stand and allowing him to evoke sympathy for the Kennedy family," Palm Beach Criminal Defence Attorney Jack Goldberger said.

The Massachusetts senator was the 15th prosecution witness. He was on the stand for 45 minutes, and did not comment to throngs of reporters at the Palm Beach County Courthouse.

Sen. Kennedy's son Patrick later took the stand and gave a similar account of night. He said his father had sometimes given different times about certain events but the younger Kennedy said the clock he used as his reference point may have stopped during a thunderstorm earlier that evening.

Patrick Kennedy said he heard no screams, or unusual noises early on the morning of Saturday March 30.

Albanian premier quits, but will still lead government

TIRANA (R) — Albanian Prime Minister Ylli Bufi has formally resigned amid a growing political and economic crisis but will continue to hold together his depleted government until a new one can be formed, the Albanian News Agency (ATA) reported Saturday.

Mr. Bufi offered his resignation Friday morning, the third day of a deepening political crisis and reports of bread riots, but it was unclear at the time whether it had been accepted by President Ramiz Alia.

On Saturday ATA quoted him as telling state television the previous evening: "I presented my resignation to the president of the republic Ramiz Alia and he accepted it."

"But ... taking into consideration the current political economic and social situation, he asked the government to perform its functions at the head of state administration until the formation of a new government."

Mr. Bufi, from the former Communist Party, offered his resignation on the third day of a political crisis which erupted when his Democratic Party coalition partners quit the government.

The crisis fuelled growing anxiety among the country's three million inhabitants, already struggling to survive the harsh Balkan winter amid chronic food shortages.

Democratic Party sources said panic over bread shortages had spread through Tirana and other cities since Wednesday after a statement by Mr. Bufi that grain supplies would last only six more days.

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Poll: Most Britons support EC union

LONDON (R) — British support for the European Community (EC) has reached its highest level since a referendum on membership 16 years ago, a poll published Saturday showed.

British voters appear enthusiastic about most items in an economic and political union package to be negotiated at an EC summit next week.

A Mori poll published in the Times newspaper said 69 per cent of those surveyed wanted closer links with the EC. Thirteen per

cent were against.

It showed 41 per cent want Britain to agree to treaties on economic and political union at the Dutch town of Maastricht Monday and Tuesday with 29 per cent opposed.

British Prime Minister John Major is fighting against increased EC involvement in social affairs and the social charter, but 74 per cent of the voters polled agreed "there should be fixed standards of workers' rights for all EC countries."

Majorities were recorded for

both integrated European armed services and closer cooperation in foreign policy. Two to one were in favour of majority voting in the council of ministers "to get rid of the right of one country to veto decisions."

Although voters were in favour of a European Central Bank, 52 per cent opposed a single currency should a referendum be held.

Two-thirds of the public, however, were resigned to the likelihood of a single European currency in due course.

EC changes, but Europe changes faster

BRUSSELS (R) — When the European Community (EC) set out in 1988 on the road which has brought it within reach of a political and monetary union treaty, Europe had two Germanys, a Berlin Wall and an iron curtain.

Safe under the U.S. nuclear umbrella, reaping the fruits of an economic boom and looking forward to still greater prosperity in the post-1992 single market, most of the 12 EC governments saw a chance to accelerate their integration.

But during the three and a half years that EC states have taken to negotiate far-reaching internal changes, the Europe around them has been transformed beyond recognition.

Germany is united, communism has been swept away in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union itself is effectively dead.

The shockwaves from those earthquakes have given added impetus to the EC's forward march.

But essentially, it has followed a path mapped out almost 40 years earlier by the founding fathers, a project conceived in the ruins of World War II, executed during the cold war and designed to make war between the nations of Europe unthinkable.

The plan has not been revised in the light of events. Its supporters have simply argued that the changes in Europe have made it all the more necessary to com-

plete the work. To serve as the rock on which the new Europe must be built, the EC must be stronger and even more integrated, they say.

And to allay fears about the power of a united Germany, both Bonn and its partners have worked to bind the new state even more tightly to its neighbours.

This is how Europe moved and its leaders' motivations shifted on the road to Maastricht.

Barely was the ink dry on the February 1988 deal overhauling the EC's finances before voices were being raised to say that a European Central Bank would be a logical complement to the planned single market.

At the EC summit in Hanover four months later, the issue was firmly on the agenda. Britain's then-Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher was, as ever, sceptical.

But France, Italy and others saw a chance to regain some of the influence over monetary policy which had been surrendered to the Bundesbank in the European Monetary System (EMS). And Germany's leaders leapt at another opportunity to demonstrate their commitment to the European ideal.

Mrs. Thatcher reluctantly agreed that a committee of the 12 EC central bank governors could prepare a report on Economic and Monetary Union (EMU), confident such hard-headed men would find little merit in the

scheme. She even allowed the chairmanship to go to European Commission President Jacques Delors.

By April 1989, the Delors Committee had issued a report setting out a three-stage plan for creating an EC Central Bank and a single currency. And in June, EC leaders agreed in Madrid to start the first phase of EMU a year later.

But within six months, the face of Europe had been transformed. Communist governments throughout Eastern Europe had been overthrown and the Berlin Wall was torn down. German Chancellor Helmut Kohl had shocked his partners by proposing a 10-point plan for uniting the two Germanys.

So at the Strasbourg summit in December 1989, the formal decision to begin negotiating on an EMU treaty at the end of the following year was taken almost without discussion.

The real debate was over the wording of a declaration of support for the principle of German unification and the conditions which should be attached.

Mr. Kohl was determined to re-establish the Bonn-Paris axis as the engine of EC progress and ease fears of Bonn's ambitions. In April 1990, he and President Francois Mitterrand made a joint appeal for the EC to negotiate political union in parallel with the

monetary talks.

A special summit that month in Dublin endorsed the general idea, again despite Mrs. Thatcher's objections, and at the regular Dublin meeting in June the leaders agreed to open formal treaty negotiations on political union by the end of year as well.

German unification was duly completed in October, and the same month Mrs. Thatcher was isolated at a special summit in Rome which agreed to start stage two of monetary union in 1994. Within a month, she had been ousted by her party.

Her removal was regarded by most EC leaders as another change in the political landscape encouraging them to press on down the path to integration, especially since her successor John Major proclaimed that he wanted Britain at the heart of Europe.

The two treaty conferences formally opened in Rome last December and all of 1991 was spent negotiating the texts.

Civil war in Yugoslavia and the collapse of the Soviet Union have barely caused the EC states to break step on their journey.

Only after Maastricht, assuming a deal is done, will the Community be able to turn its attention fully to the growing queue of would-be members at its door and the upheavals beyond its walls.

COLUMN

India may boost Taj Mahal fee

NEW DELHI (R) — Foreign tourists visiting the Taj Mahal, one of the world's great wonders, may have to pay \$10 instead of a few cents to gaze at it in future.

Indian newspapers reported Thursday. They quoted authorities in Agra, the north Indian city where the Shah Jahan's mausoleum for his beloved queen is situated, as saying their proposal would have to be approved by the central government before going into effect. Indians would continue to pay only two rupees (not quite four cents), the entrance fee foreigners now pay, they said.

Agra authorities said foreign tourists would have no difficulty in paying the new fee, which would provide more money for maintenance of approach roads to the Taj Mahal, the newspapers said.

Last month India raised tourist visa rates from a few dollars — the rate varied depending on nationality — to a standard \$50. The move provoked howls of outrage from tourist companies which said it was inconsistent with plans to boost foreign tourism. More than one million foreign tourists visit India each year and most go to see the Taj Mahal.

Money worries may have hounded Mozart to early grave

LONDON (R) — Financial worries may have hounded Mozart to an